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## Arafat: Israel at fault for slow progress in talks

JON IMMANUEL and EVELYN GORDON

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday continued to blame Israel for what he called lack of progress in the establishment of Palestinian self-rule, warning that he is surrounded by enemies and that the situation could deteriorate.

A mixed Jewish-Arab group of Israeli peace activists who met with him yesterday concurred that they had never found him more depressed, though they could not decide if it was real or feigned.

Arafat said yesterday that he ordered the banning of the pro-Jordanian *An-Nahar*, because "it violated Palestinian law, did not recognize the Palestinian government and had no contact with it."

The decision to ban *An-Nahar* has embarrassed several Palestinian Authority ministers to the point of threatening resignation. But in public, they say *An-Nahar*'s "technical" failure to apply for a license rather than its political opinions is the reason for the closure.

The International Federation of Journalists protested Arafat's closure of the newspaper, calling it an "intolerable violation of press freedom."

Arafat made clear that it was *An-Nahar*'s opinions which offended in answer to a question from *The Jerusalem Post* during a meeting with the delegation from Givat Haviva, the Jewish-Arab peace institute.

He said he was no longer optimistic about the peace process and blamed Israel for violating it down the line, from its agreement with Jordan, concerning Moslem holy places in Jerusalem to "Israeli aircraft flying over Gaza." He also cited Israel's failure to repay tax money owed, security police who conducted humiliating searches at border checkpoints and who stole automobile spare parts. Without a change in Israeli attitudes, he warned of repetitions "all over" of the riots which occurred at Erez checkpoint on July 17.

"During the last month I have discovered that the peace of the brave is from one side only," Arafat said in a barely veiled attack on Rabin.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres described Arafat's accusations of Israeli violations as meaningless. He said, "We have an agreement. We have to adhere to everything in it. He has to as well."

Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. (Continued on Page 2)



Haredim crowd Shabbat Square in the capital yesterday to protest the 'desecration' of ancient graves. (Brian Hendler)

## Haredim protest despite Modi'in compromise

HERB KEINON and BILL HUTMAN

THOUSANDS of haredim jammed Mea She'arim's Shabbat Square last night to protest the "desecration of ancient graves," even as Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron brokered a compromise whereby construction of Modi'in will continue except in areas where ancient burial caves were discovered.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted the archeological excavations in Modi'in late Monday night after an appeal from Bakshi-Doron and Shas.

The archeological excavations are designed to remove ancient artifacts before the bulldozers plow the area, slated for a city of some 250,000 people.

Eda Haredit activist Yehuda Meshi-Zehav said the Bakshi-Doron brokered compromise will not end the demonstrations, since the issue is not only about Modi'in.

"The issue is a legal opinion issued by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair last week that gives archeologists the authority to open burial caves and excavate them, and that the police must protect archeologists," Meshi-Zehav said. "Today it is Modi'in, yesterday it was Jaffa, the day before that it was Caesarea. We

want an end to the grave desecrations." A detailed list of 350 archeologists - including their names, addresses, telephone numbers, places of work and type of car was distributed at the demonstration.

The names were listed under a headline that read "Dreadful disgrace. These are the archeologists without Jewish or moral feeling, who are desecrating bones buried in Eretz Yisrael. The public should know and judge."

It quoted one Eda Haredit activist as saying, "Now the phones in the archeologists' homes will be working overtime, and their cars are also in danger until the attorney-general changes his opinion."

Rabin, referring to the controversy in Modi'in, told a press conference in Jerusalem that "I got involved with the matter yesterday when it became apparent that a conflict was going to break out."

He said he decided to stop the excavations because a "break" was needed to "try to come to a solution that will prevent a confrontation." He added, however, that the dig was legal,

and Ben-Yair had recently given approval for the archeological work at the site.

The green light to continue digging was given again after Bakshi-Doron met in the afternoon with ministers Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, David Liba'i, Moshe Shahal and Amnon Rubinstein.

It was decided that the ministers would go to the site this week and look at the burial caves in an attempt to come up with a compromise solution.

Haredim are incensed that archeologists moved bones from burial caves, which they say is prohibited by halacha, so homes can be built. Bakshi-Doron proposed moving the buildings that are to be built on top of the burial caves by a few meters, and sealing the caves.

The issue at Modi'in came alive last week when, on a tour of the site, Bakshi-Doron was shown boxes of bones that were uncovered. The Atr Kadisha, a haredi group that fights to protect ancient Jewish graves, said the bones are Jewish, while Efraim Orbach, a spokesman for the Antiquities Authority, said they were discovered in an area that was an ancient Christian graveyard.

(Continued on Page 2)

## 'Syria agrees to phased relations with Israel'

DAVID MAKOVSKY and EVELYN GORDON

SYRIA has agreed to the principle of phasing in peaceful relations with Israel alongside a staged Israeli full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, two senior Israeli officials said yesterday.

Syrian President Hafez Assad promised this during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region two weeks ago, the officials said. This is what Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meant, when he said earlier this week that Damascus has made progress on the "components of peace," but did not elaborate, according to the officials.

Christopher is scheduled to return to Jerusalem on Saturday night, in a bid to revive stalled Israel-Syrian talks. Officials say he has scheduled two trips to Damascus.

However, while the two officials say Assad has accepted the principle of phasing in normalization, Assad has yet to define fully what the term means. Rabin has publicly indicated that Syria should agree to terms similar to those accepted by Egypt at the Camp David accords, when full diplomatic relations were established after the first phase of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

"Assad has now accepted the principle of interface between phases of withdrawal and phases of normalization," one official said, confirmed by a second senior official. The officials believe Rabin heard this from Christopher

either in Jerusalem or while the premier was in Washington last week.

When asked for a reaction last night, a senior Clinton administration official refused to confirm or deny the report.

In May, Syria agreed to the concept of phased withdrawal, having previously insisted that Israel first withdraw totally from the Golan.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said yesterday the recent peace breakthrough with Jordan should create momentum in peace talks with Damascus. There have been some signals emanating recently from Damascus suggesting greater interest in the peace process. Recently, Assad authorized four Syrian ministers to initiate contact with European ambassadors to find out how multilateral talks on regional cooperation with Israel are progressing, Foreign Ministry officials say.

Others note that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara issued a condemnation of terrorism in the aftermath of the Buenos Aires and London bombings, and that Syrian television aired the entire Israel-Jordan White House ceremony.

Savir called on Syria yesterday to convince the Israeli public that Damascus is ready for peace, as well as to agree to upgraded direct talks between the two countries after the Christopher visit ends. Mid-level direct talks between the two countries stopped in February, and since then contacts have been confined to Christopher making periodic shuttles between Damascus and Jerusalem.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Sarid to run for Meretz leadership

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid announced yesterday he would run for the leadership of Meretz next year, marking another development in the ongoing power struggle between himself and Communication and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni, the current party leader.

Asked whether he intended to run for prime minister in the 1996 elections, Sarid said "I hope Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin runs in '96 and therefore we will not present any candidate against him. After all, we don't want to

shoot ourselves in the foot." Aloni said she was not surprised that Sarid would run for party leader, since he had said he would do so in the past.

"And that's fine with me, it's legitimate," she said. "But the timing is not clear, because he wants the showdown in Meretz now, but Meretz is not yet united and each movement in it still needs its institutions' approval."

Aloni noted that she planned to run again for the party leadership, but she, like Sarid, said Meretz should not run a candidate for prime minister. (Continued on Page 2)

## Court orders explanation of Ben-Yair's Sheves decision

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the attorney-general 45 days to explain his decision not to investigate Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves for interfering in the police investigation of former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

The show-cause order was issued in response to a petition by Amitai - Citizens for Good Government, filed earlier in the day. The previous day, a similar petition was filed by Likud central committee member Gil Samsonov, and the court will decide at a hearing this morning whether to issue a show-cause order on this petition as well.

In addition to asking for a criminal investigation of Sheves, the Likud petition also asks that Sheves be removed from his post. Both petitions were based on a recent state comptroller's report in which Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat found that Sheves had "exceeded the bounds of the permissible" by asking then police inspector-general Ya'acov Terner to change the composition of the police team investigating Deri on corruption charges.

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# Hussein: Jordan warned Britain of terror attacks

DAVID RUDGE

JORDAN provided Britain with information about possible terror attacks before last Tuesday's London bombings, King Hussein told British journalists this week.

He told reporters at his house near Windsor that more terrorism — like the recent bomb attacks in Buenos Aires and London — is likely as the Middle East peace process progresses.

"We have to brace ourselves for more violence until such time as there will be tremendous change in our region," he said. Jordan had received some intelligence on terrorist activity and had passed it on to Britain, Hussein said.

Meanwhile, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak said yesterday that Israel is cooperating with the international intelligence community in the efforts to track down those responsible for the bombing attacks in Buenos Aires and London.

"In my opinion, the international intelligence community knows and understands that Iran, through a com-

plex network, is behind this terrorism and is the real address for it," Barak told reporters on a tour of IDF positions in the Jordan Rift Valley yesterday.

He maintained that Iranian-inspired terrorism poses a threat to the very fabric of life in the free world, which in turn must give the matter special attention.

"If this readiness is sufficiently decisive and widespread it can bring Iran to abandon this way [of terrorism]," he said.

For its part, Israel has to take protective measures, as well as make every effort through intelligence and political channels to curb the terror threat, said Barak.

The chief of staff maintained that the recent bombings in Buenos Aires and London had awakened and alerted the free world and its governments to Iran's brand of international terrorism.

"I hope the political strength and willingness will be found to take the appropriate action," said Barak.

## Barak: We must stay alert on the Jordanian border

DAVID RUDGE

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak yesterday warned against "dropping our guard" on the Jordanian border.

Speaking to troops during a tour of IDF positions in the Jordan Rift Valley, Barak said that despite the pastoral scenery and the political developments between Israel and Jordan, they still have to maintain their vigilance and be prepared to stop any infiltration attempts.

Barak stressed that although the Jordanian Army is doing its utmost to prevent border incidents and infiltration attempts, the army still has to be alert.

"The soldiers in the lookout posts, on patrols near the border fence, and those with all the electronic equipment have to remain alert and be as

sharp as springs, because there are those elements which will try to hit Israel and the [peace] process that is developing," he said.

"Therefore it is imperative that any infiltration attempts be thwarted. The Jordanians are making big efforts, which we can see from here, to do their part, but they don't always succeed. Ultimately, however, the IDF is responsible for the security of our people and not the Jordanians," he said.

Asked about the future of the Golan Heights, Barak said the IDF could give the best possible security answers to any political decision, adding that the army would first ensure that the political hierarchy would be aware beforehand of the security ramifications of all alternatives.

## Israel slams Canadian 'refugee' policy

GOVERNMENT officials are disputing a Canadian policy that accords refugee status to some Israelis from the former Soviet Union on grounds of discrimination here.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu said yesterday that in the last three years, hundreds of Jewish newcomers from the former Soviet Union married to non-Jews had left Israel for Canada alleging discrimination in Israel.

He said 150 moved last year, making use of a jury-like Canadian immigration council to plead for refugee status. In one case a couple claimed to have been forced to at-

tend synagogue while living in Israel, he said.

"It is absurd and ridiculous that holders of citizenship in an open Western democracy like Israel are benefiting from the status of refugee in Canada, another Western democracy," he said. "We are having a dialogue with them [the Canadians]."

In Tel Aviv, the Canadian Embassy declined comment.

The Law of Return, which grants citizenship to Jews from abroad who move here, also grants full rights to their non-Jewish spouses, Gamzu said. (Reuters)



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin examines fingerprints closely yesterday on a visit to Israel Police headquarters, as Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and Police Minister Moshe Shahal look on. Rabin told reporters there are no concrete plans yet for a visit by Jordan's King Hussein to Jerusalem, and declined to say when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit the capital, saying this remains "a hypothetical question." Rabin also revealed that captive Hizbullah leader Mustafa Dirani has provided information about the party to whom he handed over missing IAF navigator Ron Arad in 1988. Rabin did not say to whom Arad was given, but only that the navigator was turned over alive.

## Delegations discuss new border crossing

News agencies

ISRAELI and Jordanian delegations met yesterday for the first time since the two countries signed a peace declaration last week and debated where to put a new border crossing.

The talks at Ein Avrona in the Arava were aimed at implementing the July 25 Washington Declaration in which Israel and Jordan pledged to end the state of war between them and to cooperate on tourism and communications.

The morning session at this site south of the Dead Sea found the two teams at odds on where to situate the crossing.

Israel proposed a crossing point

about four kilometers north of Eilat and took the Jordanian delegation on a bus tour of the site.

Eilat Regional Council chairman Shlomo Tushinsky told reporters the Jordanians objected to the site, but that talks are continuing.

Jordan had proposed the Ein Avrona site farther north, but Israel is cool to the idea because it would fall within a nature reserve, officials at the talks said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters yesterday the teams are seeking a link "from an Israeli sov-

ern area to a Jordanian sovereign area."

The only existing crossings are Jordan River bridges, used by Palestinians and tourists. The new crossings will initially be restricted to tourists, but Israel expects to be able to cross into Jordan within months.

Talks are scheduled to continue today between the Israeli team, headed by Eliakim Rubinstein, and the Jordanians, led by Gen. Tahseen Shurthout.

Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein will open the new border crossing

some time next week watched by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Jordanian officials said in Amman yesterday.

Jordanian and Israeli officials discussed arrangements for the event during yesterday's meeting.

"The opening by the two leaders in the presence of Mr. Christopher will be sometime next week," one Jordanian official told Reuters. He said the date is still being finalized.

It will be the second public meeting between Rabin and Hussein since their July 25 summit in Washington, when they ended the 46-year-old state of war between the countries.

## Terror victim dies of wounds

HERB KEINON and JON IMMANUEL

YORAM Sakuri, a Kiryat Netatim resident stabbed by terrorists in his home on July 1, died of his wounds at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikvah yesterday.

Sakuri, 30, is survived by his wife and four children. He was buried yesterday in Tiberias.

A terrorist broke into Sakuri's home at the edge of the settlement the day PLO head Yasser Arafat came to Gaza, stabbing him and his wife who were sleeping. Sakuri was critically wounded, and his wife, Hanna, was hospitalized with moderate wounds. Hanna was released three days later.

Mansur Atef Riyani, from the village of Karawat Bani Hassan near Kiryat Netatim, was arrested recently. According to the IDF, he admitted to carrying out the attack to clear his name after Hamas accused him of being a collaborator.

Kiryat Netatim is a settlement of some 35 families just northwest of Ariel.

Also yesterday, a soldier was slightly wounded by shots fired in an attack on a truck carrying soldiers near Otzmit on the Hebron-Beersheba road, the IDF said.

The attackers who fired while passing the truck escaped in the direction of Hebron. The attack broke the hallmarks of previous Hamas ambushes in the Hebron area.

## SARID

(Continued from Page 1)

mer as long as Rabin wants to run.

At this point, Meretz is still not one party but a confederation of three parties, the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam, and Shinui. The parties have not yet agreed to a full merger, and thus have not set a timetable for the election of Meretz institutions.

In a letter to all Meretz members announcing his decision, he asked the party executive to make urgent preparations for the election of a new party chairman.

The decision to run against Aloni, he wrote, "followed a period of inner struggle and was not easy, but seems to me imperative, because Meretz deserves another leadership." He said he would give more detailed reasons at a later date.

Sarid told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Meretz needs a new leadership "so that it can become a much larger movement. I can take it to far greater dimensions than it has today."

Sarid said that his decision did not mean that the present leadership was bad. "You won't get a bad word out of me about Shulamit Aloni. I don't need to disqualify anyone in order to present my candidacy."

The reason for the urgency was because the leadership must be elected before the Knesset elections in 1996, he said, noting there was always the chance the elections might be held earlier. A membership poll must be held and preparations for primaries must be made, all of which takes time, he said.

## Kach detainees want 'same rights as Hamas gets'

JEWISH administrative detainees should be allowed to sign a declaration renouncing terrorism and go free, just as Hamas terrorists are, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition was filed by five Kach administrative detainees: Noam Federman, Baruch Marzel, Baruch Ben-Yoseph, Benzion Gopstein and Shmuel Ben-Ya'acov.

The petitioners said they sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin offering to sign such a declaration.

(Continued from Page 1)

A US official said one cannot necessarily expect Syria to follow Jordan's pattern of peacekeeping. "Asad is the Frank Sinatra of this peace process. He feels he has to do it 'his way,'" the official said.

Christopher will arrive in Jerusalem on Saturday after holding talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak. On Sunday, he heads to Damascus. On Monday, he is tentatively scheduled to meet Rabin either at the Dead Sea, where Israeli-Jordanian talks are planned, or near Eilat, where a border crossing for third country nationals is scheduled to be inaugurated. King Hussein is scheduled to be at the border crossing, as well, Jordanian officials confirmed yesterday.

tion, but had been ignored.

"The petitioners noted in their letter that they hadn't committed acts of terror, but that if this was the way they could be set free, they have no problem signing such a commitment," the petition said.

By not giving them this option, they were being discriminated against with respect to convicted Palestinian terrorists, the petitioners charged. "It is not reasonable to release

terrorists who have been sentenced to multiple life sentences for murders and other horrifying acts, while those who have never been convicted of such acts continue to sit in jail," the petition said.

The petitioners also charged that their continued stay in prison, on the basis of "doubtful" classified information, was "angering Israeli public opinion."

"To pacify the Israeli public, [the petitioners] should be allowed to sign a commitment and be freed."

## SYRIA

Rumors have begun to float that Mubarak might even be invited to the crossing ceremony, and thereby symbolically inaugurate the construction of a Jordan-Egypt road that passes through Israel.

Afterwards, officials say Christopher is scheduled to make a separate trip to Damascus before holding another round of talks in Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday Syria is still not showing any signs of being forthcoming in the peace negotiations.

"I don't see any signs of real flexibility," he said, following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and

Defense Committee. "The only sign I can see is a strategic decision to replace military [solutions] with political dialogue — but this strategy is not being followed by the necessary tactics."

Ultimately, Peres said, no progress with Syria would be possible without secret talks.

However, Peres denied that any secret talks are now in progress.

Peres also blasted Saudi Arabia for not throwing its full support behind the agreement with Jordan.

"The Saudis are talking out of both sides of their mouths," he said. "They think the whole world wants their money. We don't need Saudi money; we'll build the Middle East without Saudi money. They should stop thinking that whoever has oil has everything."

He also said that despite the US's request, Israel would object to the sale of a photographic satellite to the Saudis if it might be used against Israel.

"If it will in fact serve intelligence purposes that are likely to damage us, we will object to its sale," he said.

## Palestinian gunmen clash with SLA troops

DAVID RUDGE

A PALESTINIAN gunman was killed and another wounded in a clash with South Lebanese Army troops inside the security zone late Monday night.

The firefight occurred shortly after midnight when SLA troops on operational duties in the Baramsheh region spotted the terrorist squad.

The SLA soldiers opened fire on the gunmen, sparking an exchange of fire during the course of which one of the infiltrators was killed and another wounded.

Reports from the region said the Palestinian squad was composed of members from the National Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front.

The reports said the following members of the squad managed to flee northward and were wounded. Palestinian media said they were in Tiberias, where they received treatment before being transported to hospital in Tyre.

Sources in the security zone said it appeared the terrorists had intended to plant road-side bombs aimed at IDF and SLA targets in the zone.

The new head of the IDF's Lebanon Liaison Unit, Brig.-Gen. Giora Imbar, visited the scene of the clash, was briefed about the incident and praised the action of the SLA soldiers involved.

Around the same time, gunmen from the Amal Shi'ite movement fired rockets and mortars at SLA positions in the predominantly Christian-populated Jezzeine enclave, north of the zone.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, claimed that its "fire support unit" had shelled IDF positions in the Ghazian region, in the eastern sector of the zone in the early hours of yesterday morning.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in any of the incidents. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire at the attacks.

The attacks occurred as work continued on reinforcing IDF and SLA positions in the zone in an attempt to give troops better protection against long-range shooting attacks by Hizbullah and other groups.

In an unrelated matter, reports from Lebanon said that residents of "besieged" Yochmor village, just north of the zone, yesterday turned back Red Cross factors bringing supplies of medicines, food and water to the village.

According to the reports, the residents said they did not want assistance, but only wanted the road which links the village to the rest of Lebanon to be reopened.

The IDF has denied laying siege to the village.

## Government accepts British consul's denial of Nazi remark

THE Foreign Ministry said yesterday it was satisfied with British Consul-General Richard Dalton's denial of reports he had likened Israeli behavior in the territories to the Nazis and Hamas to a World War II resistance group.

"The consul denied he made the comparison," Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu said. "He said this is the self-image of [the Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas and this is their image among Palestinians — but it is not his comparison."

Yediot Aharanot said yesterday that the government sought clarifications after hearing that Dalton, in a closed briefing to British Labour Party supporters, said Israel acted in the occupied lands like the Nazis and Hamas was like a World War II resistance group.

(Reuters)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man fatally wounded in Jerusalem robbery

A Jerusalem resident was shot in the chest and fatally wounded late last night when robbers broke into his Rehavia home. The two robbers entered the Rehov Radak home and were surprised by the man, a lawyer, 42. One of them shot him during a struggle and the two fled.

The victim remained conscious long enough to phone police, but died shortly after he was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem. Police immediately began a manhunt for the assailants. *Idm*

### Two killed on roads

Two persons were killed and five injured in road accidents yesterday. At the Gela-Bar-Ilan junction, a tractor crashed into a motorcycle, killing the woman passenger and seriously injuring the driver. A Nazareth taxi driver was killed and four others were injured in the morning when the taxi veered into oncoming traffic, crashing into a pickup truck. *Idm*

### Bomb found at Buenos Aires Airport

Argentinian police said they found and detonated a bomb at Buenos Aires Metropolitan Airport yesterday. Disposal experts removed the bomb and detonated it in an isolated spot. *Reuters*

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

### Winning numbers

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. today, at the YMCA, King David Street. Ambassador Yoel Sher will speak on *Relations with Eastern Europe*.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 11, 13, 22, 28, 40 and the additional number was 38.

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Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visits yesterday with striking Arab local council heads in their protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office. The council leaders want the government to bail out their financially-crippled local authorities, which have accumulated debts of NIS 200 million. Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads, said Peres 'listened to our problems and promised to raise the matter with the finance minister and give us an answer as soon as possible.'

(Text: David Rudge; Photo: Yossi Cohen)

## Franchisers: High costs behind Eurosport channel cancellation

LIAT COLLINS

THE fate of cable television's Eurosport channel has landed back in the court of the cable franchise holders, who apparently could ensure receiving the channel if they are prepared to pay enough.

Earlier this week Israel Cable Television Association officials told *The Jerusalem Post* that the station would be going off the air August 9 for an indefinite period, because of a fault in the Astra 1A satellite which beams the signal to the Middle East region.

Yesterday, however, the chairman of the Cable Television Council, the public body which supervises the five franchise holders, said Eurosport had informed her that the station could still be picked up if Israeli companies paid the station its dues. This contradicts the franchise holders' claims that "for reasons beyond their control" they would not be able to broadcast Eurosport, said council chairman Michal Rafi-Kaduri in a letter to association chairman Yossi Douer.

Eurosport is one of the 40-odd channels broadcast locally on cable television and one of three dedicated to sports programs.

Rafi-Kaduri said the fran-

chise terms oblige the cable companies to broadcast the station. "It's important you reach an agreement with the channel's representatives over its continued broadcast for the viewers' benefit. And it would be best if you do this before [the council] asks the communications minister to review the conditions of your franchise and obligations under the Bezek Law," she wrote to Douer.

In response, Douer said the council and Eurosport were mixing several different issues. "I met with Eurosport representatives two weeks ago and discussed the problem. They could not tell me what technical solution exists to enable us to receive the broadcasts until the channel moves to the stronger satellite in January, but they demanded a totally unreasonable figure to solve the issue. Without giving you an exact price I can say they demanded twice what I pay CNN and MTV combined in order to solve the problem." He said the companies are examining alternatives, but "it's almost a matter of wait and see."

A bill has been proposed to regulate payment by cable companies for the broadcasts they pick up via satellite.

## Baram battles Airports Authority over 'harassment' of foreigners

HAIM SHAPIRO

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram yesterday released a letter from a leader of German tour groups, in which the German compared the uncivil behavior of security personnel at Ben-Gurion Airport to that of security men in the former East German regime.

The letter, in German, had been sent to Baram by a local organizer of German tourist groups. The local tour manager, in his accompanying letter, said that when he visited Germany he received frequent complaints about nasty behavior by security officers at Ben-Gurion.

Both writers said that in their view it was possible to carry out security checks while remaining polite, and that this should be part of the training of the security personnel.

Baram released the letters as part of his ministry's battle with the Airports Authority over what the ministry calls the harassment of passengers by security guards.

The battle began Monday, after Tourism Minister Uzi Baram quoted Israeli ambassadors from Western Europe as saying that harassment of tourists by security guards at Ben-Gurion Airport could hurt Israel's tourism.

The Airports Authority spokesman denied that tourists were harassed and expressed shock that the ambassadors could question security procedures at a time when Jewish and Israeli targets around the world were being attacked by terrorists.

## 'Media coverage of certain events can induce psychosis'

JUDY SIEGEL

INTENSE media attention on strange events, such as Lubavitch predictions of the Messiah's arrival or the capture of Israeli traitor Mordechai Vanunu can trigger psychotic delusions among apparently normal people. Researchers called seven such cases in recent years "mediogenic psychoses."

Drs. Yoram Talmon, Alan Abrahams and Nina Guy of Kaplan Hospital's psychiatric service report in the latest issue of *Hare-Juach* (the journal of the Israel Medical Association) on these patients, all of whom were hospitalized in Rehovot.

Five people, including two young religious women, started believing they were the Messiah after being influenced by the Habad "Messiah is Coming" campaign that began in 1992. In addition, two young men began to think they were spies being pursued by the Mossad after heavy press coverage of the capture of Vanunu, who revealed alleged secrets about Israel's nuclear capabilities.

Among the people bit by the Messiah bug was a 30-year-old married woman of Yemenite origin who was a follower of Habad. Although she had no psychotic history, she suddenly refused to eat, drink and wash, claiming that in a dream, God revealed that she was the Messiah. A 19-year-old single woman also stopped eating and drinking, and endlessly recited the Ten Commandments "except for Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery." She, too, declared that she was the Messiah.

The Kaplan psychiatrists, who treated the patients, said they were convinced that the widely publicized Habad "Messiah" campaign had triggered the psychoses. The cases influenced by Vanunu involved a 23-year-old and a 24-year-old, both of them had served in the IDF and were employed. Soon after Vanunu's capture, one said he was a spy pursued by the Mossad and had no alternative but to commit suicide. After a week's treatment, he calmed down and was discharged.

## Court increases sentence for 'family honor' crime

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday increased by four years the sentence of a man who tried to commit a "family honor" killing, saying this phenomenon must be combatted. Ahmed Barkat was convicted of attempting to murder his mother in 1992, and sentenced to eight years in prison by the Haifa District Court. The reason for the crime was his mother's decision to live with another man, without marrying him, after divorcing Barkat's father. Barkat, then 22 years old, stabbed his mother so seriously that she would almost certainly have died had two passersby not seen her and taken her to the hospital. He freely confessed to the police that he had intended to kill his mother, and said he hoped that she would still die of her wounds.

The lower court said there were three mitigating factors: the fact Barkat had no criminal past; the fact his mother had forgiven him; and the fact relations between the two had since improved, and he had expressed regret for the crime. However, it said, the seriousness of the crime still merited an eight-year sentence.

Barkat appealed, arguing that the mitigating factors had not been given enough weight. His lawyer also argued that such a long time in prison would make it difficult for Barkat, who, he said, is not a criminal by nature, to reintegrate into society. The government's psychological testing service supported the appeal.

The state counterappealed, arguing the sentence was too light given the severity of the crime. Justices Eliahu Mazza, Tova Strasberg-Cohen, and Zvi Tal agreed.

"In intent, there is no difference between [intent to kill] and actual murder," wrote Mazza, noting Barkat did not succeed because bystanders intervened. "Therefore, as a rule, it must be punished with the full severity of the law." "If I had been sitting on the lower court, I would have considered the appropriate sentence to be at least double the one that was actually imposed on him," he continued. "But because it is our custom not to impose the full force of the law on an appeal, I will set the appellant's sentence at 12 years."

## HU professor wins 'Nobel Prize' of computers

JUDY SIEGEL

A 38-YEAR-OLD Hebrew University professor will receive the world's most prestigious award in theoretical computer science today.

Prof. Avi Wigderson will be awarded the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize - considered to be equal to a Nobel Prize - at the International Congress of Mathematics in Zurich.

Born in Haifa, Wigderson studied at the Technion and Princeton University. He joined Hebrew University's Institute of Computer Science in 1986.

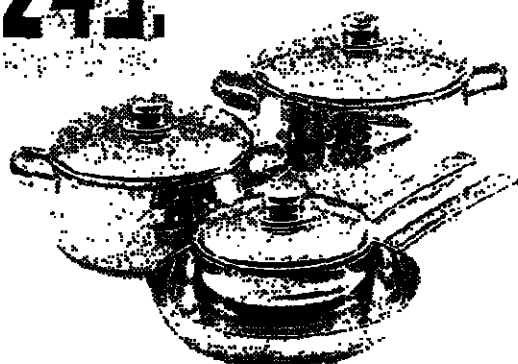
Theoretical computer science deals with the math-

ematical foundations of computation. Wigderson has been working primarily on complexity theory, in which he has been searching for randomized algorithms to help overcome complexity limitations and apply them to computer programs.

But some of his most important contributions have been demonstrations to show that for some types of computation, the complexity cannot be avoided. He is also involved in parallel computation, in which many computers are harnessed to work together and solve problems at the speed of supercomputers.

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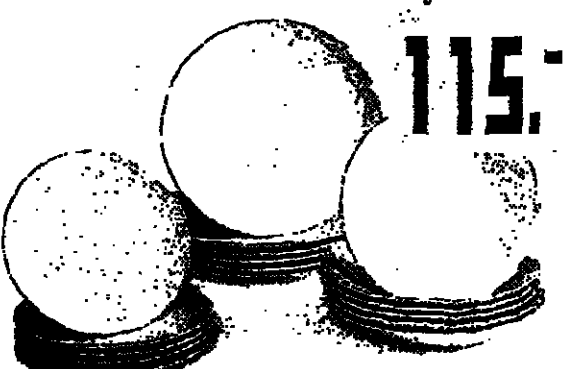
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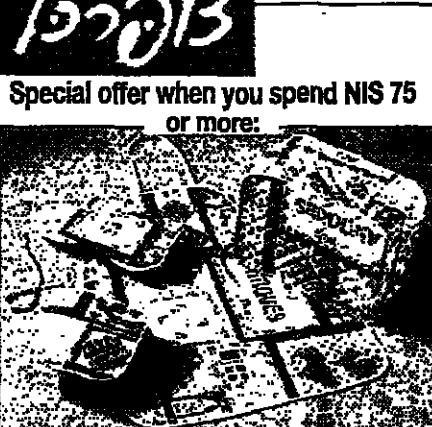
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## Gangs riot in Lagos

LAGOS (AP) — Machete-armed gangs set fires, smashed cars and battled with traders in Lagos yesterday in an attempt to enforce a five-week strike against the military government.

The regime of Gen. Sani Abacha tried to keep the strikes by oil workers, bankers and other groups from spreading by holding talks yesterday with the National Labor Congress, which represents nearly 5 million members.

The labor federation has vowed to strike today unless the military government frees Moshood K.O. Abiola, the apparent winner of the June 1993 election that was annulled by the military.

Abiola was charged with treason after declaring himself president to commemorate the first anniversary of the election. His trial resumed yesterday in Abuja, but was adjourned until today after his lawyers argued the court had no jurisdiction since Abiola declared himself president in Lagos, 320 km to the south.

The two major oil unions, which started the protests on July 4, said in a joint statement yesterday that Abiola's release must be unconditional.

"The government is asking the Nigerian Labor Congress to give it a guarantee that once released, Abiola will not make any trouble for (the government)," the statement said.

"This is like asking him to renounce his (election) mandate," it continued.

The most damaging part of the protests so far has been the oil strike. It not only has cut export production — virtually Nigeria's only source of outside revenues — but it has made life difficult for the average Nigerian.

Car and cooking fuel are scarce, and local newspapers said people are invading government-protected forests in southwest Ogun state to cut down trees so they can have wood to cook with.

The Royal Dutch Shell Group, the biggest oil producer, says its production is down 40 percent, and is likely to continue to drop.

## Survey: Sex magazine owner UK's richest person

LONDON (Reuters) — Sex business entrepreneur Paul Raymond topped a magazine survey as the richest person in Britain where it says the rich are getting richer and paying less tax.

Business magazine said Raymond was worth 1.65 billion pounds (\$2.55 billion). His empire includes sex magazines, clubs and up to 65 percent of the London entertainment area of Soho.

Next in line came supermarket magnate David Sainsbury, valued at 1.38 billion pounds (\$2.13 billion), banker Sir Evelyn de Rothschild at 1.35 billion pounds (\$2.08 billion) and press baron Lord Rothermere at 1.22 billion pounds (\$1.88 billion).

The magazine's researchers concluded: "The rich are paying less tax than ever before."

Their report says more were putting their money in trusts or companies based in tax shelters like the Channel Islands, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

The magazine estimated that the top 500 have paid less than 10 percent in income tax over the past year. "Some have paid none at all," it said.

Queen Elizabeth, with an estimated personal wealth of 138 million pounds (\$213 million), was ranked in 72nd place. "We only rank her personal and not her state assets," a spokesman for the magazine said.



A Hutu child sits by the road yesterday as other refugees look on, at the Katala Refugee Camp near Goma, Zaire. (AP)

## Dysentery ravages Rwandans, replaces cholera as main affliction

SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
GOMA

AS dysentery steals cholera's grim title as the most widespread affliction in Goma's refugee camps, one relief official yesterday predicted the almost unimaginable — an upsurge in deaths.

Children will be hardest hit, she said, by the deadly dysentery spreading among more than a million Rwandans jammed into camps along Zaire's eastern border.

Only Monday, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited the camps and said she saw reason for hope, despite the misery all around her.

"Dysentery has overtaken cholera" as the main disease afflicting refugees, said Samantha Bolton of the relief group Doctors Without Borders. She said 76 dysentery patients were treated at one of her agency's clinics Monday, compared with 33 cases of cholera.

"This is going to strike kids more than adults," Bolton said. "It's going to be very expensive and time-consuming to treat, and you're going to

see an upsurge in deaths."

Cholera and dysentery are both spread by fecal contamination of food and water. Cholera is treated with an infusion of liquids and minerals to replace those lost by the body through vomiting and diarrhea. Dysentery requires five days of costly antibiotics.

Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the UN's refugee agency, said yesterday the number of reported deaths in the camps had fallen to an estimated 800 to 900 daily, down from 1,800 to 2,000 early last week.

"That figure undoubtedly will go up when the dysentery moves up in scope," he said.

The UN has appealed for \$434 million in donations to help the refugees, and representatives from about 40 countries met yesterday in Geneva to pledge funds.

Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, told the

meeting the agency faced a cash shortfall of \$65 million. Despite a huge international aid effort, she said, the agency desperately needs help improving sanitation, camp and road facilities.

Ogata made her first visit to the camps Monday, then flew to Geneva. In Goma, where death and suffering surrounded her, she was cheered to see cholera victims saved by Red Cross and volunteer doctors, US planes ferrying in water tankers, and engineers bulldozing roads so they could serve more people.

"Things are bad but they're going to get better," Ogata said Monday. In Geneva yesterday, Sylvana Foa, a spokeswoman for the High Commissioner's office, said the arrival of more bulldozers to bury the dead in mass graves has helped to control the spread of disease.

The UN Children's Fund on Monday estimated 50,000 people have died in the camps in the past two weeks, more than twice the High Commissioner's figure of 20,000.

US military efforts to increase the flow of clean water to the camps gained momentum. Transports brought the first of three 3,000-gallon (12,000-liter) US water tankers, and nine tankers were expected from Finland.

US Army engineers bulldozed two paths through Kibumba, 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Goma, where the crush of refugees has slowed traffic to a crawl. The paths will make it easier for UN trucks to carry water there from an American water purification site in Goma.

On television news shows in the United States yesterday morning, Defense Secretary William Perry said US troops will not be part of a UN peacekeeping mission authorized for Rwanda. The US military will only be involved in refugee relief operations, he said.

## Serbia threatens to cut ties with Bosnian Serbs

BELGRADE (Reuters) — Serbia yesterday issued a strongly worded rebuke to the Bosnian Serbs and threatened to sever relations with them if they continued to reject the latest international peace plan.

The Bosnian Serbs said their self-declared parliament would meet in their stronghold of Pale today to discuss calling a referendum on whether to accept the peace plan.

The threat to sever ties came in a letter from the government of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, which slammed the Serb leadership in neighboring Bosnia for their continued rejection of the peace plan.

The letter told Bosnian Serb leaders they would be committing "treason" and "crimes against their own people" if they continued to reject the peace plan drafted by the major powers.

"If, at this time when peace is offered, you usurp the right to decide on the fate of Yugoslavia, you as leaders eliminate all possibility of further relations with us," the letter said, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug.

It added: "If you fail to accept peace, you will commit the greatest ever treason against Serb national interests."

The letter came two days after Milosevic warned the Bosnian Serb leadership they must accept the peace plan the Bosnian Serb parliament rejected last month.

Bosnian Serb parliamentary speaker Momcilo Krajcinovic said yesterday the assembly would meet again today to adopt a final stance on the peace plan. He appeared to stick to a hard line, calling for concessions from the

major powers. "We shall leave aside a certain period of time in anticipation of new positive initiatives," he said.

The United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France, authors of the peace plan for Bosnia, called at the weekend for stiffer sanctions to punish Serbian-led Yugoslavia for the Bosnian Serbs' continued refusal to accept the plan.

Milosevic, whose patronage of Bosnia's Serbs has become increasingly grudging as his anxiety to have sanctions removed has grown, on Sunday urged the Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan.

The Bosnian Serbs responded on Monday by asking for further talks on the division of Bosnia between them and the Muslim-Croat federation, and guarantees of sovereignty for

their self-declared Bosnian Serb republic.

This was rejected by all five major powers, who insisted acceptance must be unconditional.

In its letter the Serbian government expressed "surprise and concern" that the Bosnian Serbs were raising the two issues again, it said, Russia gave them guarantees they sought.

The two issues have been clarified and it is beyond reason to expect that anyone would want to discuss them before the peace plan is accepted," the letter said.

Therefore the government of Serbia believes there is no cause for 11 million citizens of Yugoslavia to continue waiting for the lifting of sanctions to begin while you clarify issues which are already clear to the entire world."

## Indian opposition boycotts parliament

JAWED NAQVI  
NEW DELHI

OPPOSITION parties said yesterday they would boycott parliament as part of their campaign against Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's handling of India's worst financial scandal.

Rao refused to accept an opposition demand that he withdraw the government's response to a parliamentary investigation which criticized Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and six other ministers in the 1992 \$1.28 billion scandal.

"The government seems to be adamant. We are walking out till the end of the session," Communist deputy Somnath Chatterjee said in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) before other opposition members followed him out.

"We have no other option but to join our friends in the opposition," said Azal Behari Vajpayee, the chief opposition leader and deputy for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as he too walked out.

The opposition has a slender majority in the upper house. Rao acquired a wafer-thin majority in the lower house after some opposition deputies defected last December.

Congress deputies appeared shaken after the opposition deserted both houses for the rest of the session, scheduled to end in the last week of August. "Obviously, it is not such a nice feeling to go to an empty house," said Jayanthi Natarajan, a Congress

lawmaker in the upper house. We had found a way of avoiding a showdown. But now it's plain sailing."

Opposition deputies said they were already contemplating the possibility of launching street campaigns.

"This has become a political attitude," Communist leader Gupta said in the lower house. He held a brief discussion with the prime minister's attorney.

"We are disappointed," prime minister's attorney believe is the grand strategy," Gupta said. "We are not sure this, we have to see."

Opposition deputies would also petition President Dayal Sharma to see if he could persuade the government to accept the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) findings on the scandal.

Rao's Congress Party and the opposition are in dispute over the government's "Action Taken Report" on the scandal inquiry.

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## Haiti military leaders say they'll fight back

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Backers of Haiti's military machine vowed to fight to the death to keep it in power, declaring a "state of siege" against the move toward a possible US-led invasion.

"The blood will flow," Frantz Robert Monde, president of the lower house of Parliament, said yesterday. "I know I am going to die."

The Dominican Republic meanwhile agreed to allow US-led international surveillance of its border with Haiti as a way to combat embargo-breaking fuel smugglers.

The United States considers tighter control of the border essential for stopping overland smuggling of fuel to Haiti, which is under an international trade embargo aimed at dislodging its military ruler. President Clinton has threatened an invasion of Haiti if the embargo fails to achieve that goal.

A resolution approved Sunday by the UN Security Council lays the legal groundwork for an invasion to oust the military and restore deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In a radio and television address Monday, Haiti's de facto president, Emile Jonassaint, declared the state of siege and began preparing the population for "the battle of Haiti."

"To those who are preparing to invade, the Haitian people declare that they will fight them in the cities and in the countryside, they will fight them in the streets and in the palaces, they will fight them day and night,"

said presidential aide Carl Desha.

Meanwhile Monday, US State Department spokesman Michael McCurry condemned as a "provocative incident" a morning assault on some 40 Haitians waiting in line to seek US asylum at an embassy office in Port-au-Prince. About 50 members of a "semi-official" anti-gang unit beat up the asylum seekers at about 5 a.m. as they waited for the center to open at 6:30 a.m., McCurry said.

Three were arrested, he said, adding it could not be immediately learned if the incident was related to the UN resolution.

The mood was grim at the presidential palace Monday afternoon. Jonassaint canceled a scheduled interview with The Associated Press. Conversations with Jonassaint's aides and other officials disclosed a sense of resignation about eventual military intervention in this Caribbean nation.

"We waited for the sentence," said Gilles Hendrick, a politician. "It has been pronounced. It's the electric chair, with no appeal. Haiti is on death row."

Jonassaint, 81, was installed as president in May by a minority of army-backed lawmakers. He assumed the prime minister's post and named a group of extreme rightists and nationalists to the Cabinet.

"The battle of Haiti is under way," he said in his 3 a.m. address. "We will fight it with all our might and means."

## Weather still more effective than science against wildfires

LEAVENWORTH, Wash. (AP) — They're using computers, cellular telephones, infrared photography and

plain old hunches to fight wildfires along the once-green flanks of the eastern Cascade Mountains.

The people overseeing this struggle are quick to admit that when the breeze starts picking up and the cloying smoke begins to lift, all their technology can seem a little inadequate.

The only real master over these flames is the weather.

"We are all these little ants scurrying around doing our little things," Forest Service spokesman Greg Thayer said Monday.

"But then you have Mother Nature out there doing her big thing," and if her thing is wind and heat, "what we do can seem awfully small."

Across eight Western states, more than 14,000 civilian firefighters were battling 26 major fires yesterday. Nearly 800,000 hectares were burned this year, more than in all of 1993, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

A battalion of 550 Marines from Camp Pendleton, Calif., jumped into the fray yesterday after eight hours of training. Their plan is to shovel dirt over burning embers and rake out fire lines around the huge Tye Creek fire, which blew up to almost 40,000 hectares by early yesterday.

"I've been around the world three times. It actually feels good to do something on American soil," offered Sgt. Mark Grebetz, 32.

## Detective threatens to sue Simpson defense over 'planted evidence'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A detective who testified that he found a bloody glove at O.J. Simpson's estate will sue Simpson's attorneys to retract claims that he planted the evidence, his lawyer said.

A July 25 article in The New Yorker magazine quoted unnamed leading members of Simpson's defense team as saying they might argue that Mark Fuhrman found two gloves at the murder scene, then planted one outside Simpson's mansion.

Fuhrman's attorney, Robert Tourtelot, demanded a retraction and apology from Simpson attorney Robert Shapiro for "immeasurable" pain and anguish suffered by the officer and his family.

"You can help ease the humilia-

tion and hurt they continue to experience," Tourtelot said in the letter to Shapiro. A copy was faxed to The Associated Press.

Fuhrman denied planting the glove. Tourtelot said he would sue Simpson and Shapiro after Simpson's double-murder trial to avoid compromising the criminal case.

The allegations "are not only false and libelous, they are simply outrageous and despicable," Tourtelot wrote.

Shapiro denied making the comments after The New Yorker article appeared. He did not return a telephone message.

Simpson, 47, has pleaded innocent to the June 12 slaying murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Goldman, 25. He remains jailed without bail.

The New Yorker article said the defense would argue that Fuhrman was motivated by racism, got pleasure from intimidating criminals and sometimes beat suspects.

"This is a bad cop," one unidentified attorney told the magazine. "This is a racist cop."

Shapiro later said race would play no role in the case, and that defense lawyers would more likely argue that

Fuhrman isn't a reliable witness because he once asked to be removed from the police force because of a mental disorder.

A police union attorney also is considering a lawsuit against Simpson's defense team, The New Yorker and tabloid magazines.

With the approval of the union's board of directors, Los Angeles Police Protective League lawyer Hank Hernandez is preparing to "take aggressive action to exonerate the reputations of these outstanding detectives," he said.

Other developments: A feminist attorney and a conservative activist called on District Attorney Gil Garcetti to seek the death penalty for Simpson. Prosecutors plan to decide what penalty to seek before the Sept. 19 trial.

"Were it not a celebrity defendant, it seems highly likely that he would ask for the death penalty," said Gloria Allred, wearing a photo of Nicole Brown Simpson on her jacket.

Allred and Susan Carpenter-McMillan, spokeswoman for the conservative Women's Coalition, also asked Garcetti to discuss the case with women's groups, as he did with black organizations.

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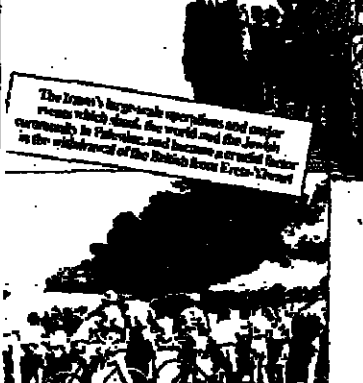
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# Saddam: Iraq's strongman who won't snap

VISITING Turkey's Foreign Ministry shortly after the Gulf war, a US official predicted that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would soon break under pressure and be toppled. Driving his point home, he snapped a pencil in two before his startled hosts. In the three years since, Turkish assessments of the Iraqi president's staying power have used the incident to their advantage. "It's a kind of joke now," a US diplomat in Ankara said. "Whenever we talk to them about Iraq they say, 'Oh yes, we remember the pencil.'"

The unexpected duration of the post-war stalemate between Saddam and Washington highlights failures by US policy-makers to appreciate the dynamics of Iraqi society and Saddam's uncanny abilities for survival and conspiracy. Although some observers say worsening economic conditions and an erosion of support within his inner circle mean

that Saddam's rule is more fragile than ever, what counts is that the 57-year-old strongman, despite US predictions, still has his seat.

As his belated cooperation with UN weapons inspectors brings closer a possible lifting of the international embargo on Iraqi oil sales, Saddam is holding on with characteristic tenacity.

"What is required now," Saddam told a group of Iraqis shortly after naming himself prime minister in May, "is determination, increased determination and stronger determination."

While Saddam is still able to reward his military and security services by printing Iraqi dinars and giving away plots of land, there are signs that he has had to appeal to private sources for the \$1.2 billion a year in foreign currency needed to maintain the state food-ration system. The local press recently noted that "39 patriotic Iraqi merchants and industrialists" had contributed

\$2.75 million to import food.

SADDAM'S political base has also been shaken over the last year, first by an aborted assassination conspiracy by members of his own extended family, the Tikritis. Then one of Saddam's most trusted aides, son-in-law Hussein Kamel, underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor. Kamel has been shown back at work on television, but reportedly is not as alert as before.

Most recently, several members of the Durri family, second only to the Tikritis as a pillar of Saddam's power clique, were dismissed from their posts in the government, army and ruling Ba'ath Party. Among them was Maj. Gen. Sa'ad Durri, former director of Iraq's general intelligence service. Some reports

CARYLE MURPHY  
BAGHDAD

say the men were also arrested.

The reasons for this move are unclear, diplomats said. "The fact is, there has been some disturbance within the inner circles or tribes which form the leadership," one envoy said of the Durri case. "But the mere fact that this problem was contained without much side effects points out Saddam is still in control."

TO MAINTAIN that control, Saddam has heightened his reliance on familiar tools: the Ba'ath Party, repression and his family.

Saddam's manipulation of his numerous security agencies, created to spy on each other, continues. According to one expert on Saddam's record, the leader concocts coup scenarios and sends out "plants" to discuss them. Military offi-

cers who then fail to report hearing of these fictitious plots are punished and sometimes executed, the expert said.

Perhaps most significantly, Saddam appears to be grooming his eldest son, Uday Saddam Hussein, for a larger public role, perhaps as defense minister. His younger son, Qasay, heads Saddam's special security forces.

The 30-year-old Uday, who drives around Baghdad in a black Porsche with red leather seats and visits discos surrounded by a bevy of Iraqi beauties and an even larger contingent of bodyguards, has come a long way since Saddam temporarily sent him abroad for killing his father's favorite bodyguard during an argument in 1988.

Uday is head of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, editor of the Babel newspaper, director of an Iraqi television station and leader of the state-run student and journalists unions.

In recent weeks, Iraqi television has

shown him attending joint meetings of the cabinet and the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, receiving Iraqi ambassadors on visits home, meeting with visiting French businessmen and sitting for final examinations at Iraq's military college.

The US assumption that a militarily humiliated Saddam would quickly be ousted after the Gulf war may have failed to take into account the patience of Iraqis to endure economic hardships and repression, and their feelings of helplessness before the police state Saddam has erected.

There was also a failure to appreciate the effectiveness of the Iraqi government's propaganda machine, which has cast the Gulf war as a "conspiracy" against Iraq. UN sanctions as an attempt to "starve the Iraqi people" and the US-organized "no-fly zones" over southern and northern Iraq as an effort to dismember the country. (Washington Post)

## Lebanon head refuses to curb Hizbullah

News agencies  
FAYADIEH, Lebanon

PRESIDENT Elias Hrawi, handing out graduation swords to 264 new Lebanese army officers, has defied the US by refusing to curb the pro-Iranian Hizbullah, which Washington said must be defeated.

In a hard-hitting speech on Lebanon's 49th Army Day this week, Hrawi called the pro-Iranian group's fight against Israeli occupation in south Lebanon "legitimate" and said it would continue until Israel promised to withdraw.

Hrawi angrily accused Israel of holding Lebanon hostage by falsely accusing it of responsibility for bombings in which it had no part.

Hrawi was flanked by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri at the graduation ceremony at the military academy in Fayadieh, a pine-wooded hilly suburb east of Beirut.

With the Beirut skyline and a giant national flag in the background, the cadets knelt on their right knees as they collectively took the oath of defending Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitution.

Cadets in royal blue uniforms approached the stand one by one to receive from Hrawi a sword

signaling promotion to lieutenant.

The ceremony was followed by a military parade staged by army units in camouflage fatigues. Gen. Emile Lahoud, a British-trained officer credited with reuniting the army after its disintegration in the 1975-90 civil war, saluted from the reviewing stand as troops filed past.

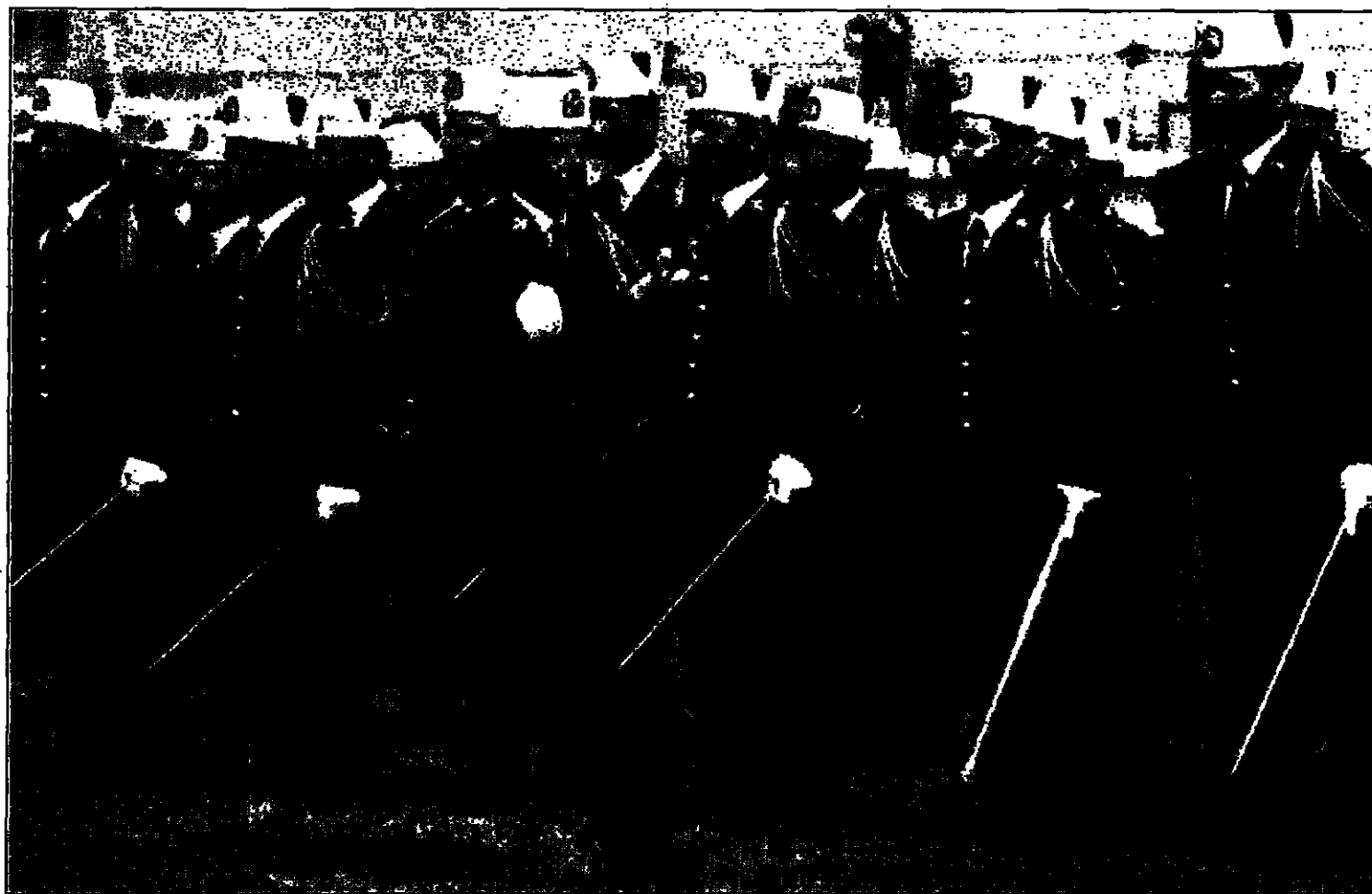
The military has been restructured along nonsectarian lines. It is now made up of nearly 50,000 troops with about 220 battle tanks and 300 armored personnel carriers, five gunboats and three warplanes.

Hrawi said Middle East peace was impossible without Syria and Lebanon.

"There will be no peace in the Middle East without Syria and Lebanon irrespective of all the separate signatures they collect," he said in a speech marking Lebanon's 49th army day.

He was alluding to the PLO's May accord with Israel implementing limited Palestinian self-rule and the joint Jordanian-Israeli declaration last week in Washington ending 46 years of belligerence.

Washington has pledged to continue efforts to bring about similar breakthroughs on the Syrian and



Lebanese army officers attend a graduation ceremony in Fayadieh on Monday, during which President Elias Hrawi said there will be no regional peace without Syria and Lebanon. (AP)

Lebanese tracks with Israel.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was in the Middle East two weeks ago, is preparing to set out on a new shuttle

between Syria and Israel later this month.

"We shall maintain full coordination with sister Syria," Hrawi said. "The Syrian and Lebanese

tracks in the peace talks with Israel are inseparable."

Hrawi criticized threats made against Hizbullah in the wake of the Buenos Aires

and London bombs.

"We should not be punished because we are not an obstacle to just and comprehensive peace," he said.

## Iran's 'Carlos' said behind bombings

CON COUGHLIN  
LONDON

A Lebanese terrorist known as "Iran's Carlos" has been identified as the mastermind behind a worldwide campaign of terrorism against Jewish institutions, say Western intelligence sources.

Imad Mugniyeh, who played a leading role in the Lebanon hostage crisis and has a long history of involvement in international terrorism, has emerged as a key figure in the investigation into the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London last week.

Mugniyeh was a founder of Hizbullah and was responsible for kidnapping Church of England negotiator Terry Waite and the other British hostages. He has also been identified as the architect of the bombing of a Jewish organization in Buenos Aires two weeks ago, in which 96 people died.

Investigators also suspect he was involved in the bombing of a Panamanian jet soon afterwards in which all 21 people on board perished, including a group of 12 Jewish businessmen.

Mugniyeh did not travel to Buenos Aires or London but was instrumental in planning and training aides for the attacks. According to intelligence sources in the Middle East, London and the US, Mugniyeh has been put in charge of a special unit in Teheran to orchestrate terrorist attacks against "soft" Jewish

targets around the world.

Sources in Jerusalem confirmed an Israeli team arrived in Britain over the weekend to investigate the London bombing. They brought a list of suspects they believe may have been responsible. This included the name of a Palestinian woman who may have parked the Audi which blew up the Israeli Embassy.

Israeli sources believe the woman, whose husband and son were killed during a clash with the Israelis four years ago, may have planted the bomb in revenge.

Mugniyeh fled to Iran from Lebanon in the mid-1980s to escape attempts by the Central Intelligence Agency to capture him and bring him to trial in the US.

American officials believe they had proof that Mugniyeh was behind the blowing up of the American Embassy in Beirut in April 1983 and the bombing of the American and French military barracks the following October, in which more than 300 people were killed.

He was also responsible for the kidnapping of two dozen American citizens in Beirut. Mugniyeh's tag of "Iran's Carlos" is a reference to the KGB-trained Carlos who was behind a series of spectacular terrorist attacks in the

1970s. Mugniyeh has kept a low profile since the Lebanese hostage crisis was resolved three years ago, posing as a businessman.

But following a power struggle in Teheran which has resulted in radical ayatollahs acquiring more influence, Mugniyeh has been hired to organize a worldwide campaign against Jewish and Israeli targets.

Iran has consistently opposed the Middle East peace dialogue between Israel, the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states.

Now that the process is showing tangible results, the Iranian leadership has launched a worldwide terrorist campaign to undermine it.

With Rabin vowing to hunt down those responsible for the bombings in South America and London, there are fears that a new wave of terrorist and counter-terrorist incidents will soon sweep through Europe's capitals.

"The bombings in Argentina and London are not isolated incidents," said one Middle East intelligence expert.

After the bombing in Argentina, Jerusalem was convinced that Iran was responsible. One of five people arrested in Argentina in connection with the bombings is Iranian and Buenos Aires is still deciding whether to cut diplomatic relations with Teheran. (Daily Telegraph)

## Jordan writers' group opposes peace

ARAB NEWS DIGEST

THE plenum of the Association of Jordanian Writers held a special meeting to consider the question of normalization in the cultural field with the Israeli enemy and to establish essential guidelines in this area.

The meeting unanimously agreed in a vote to adopt a document presented by Ma'ans Alaraz, the association chairman. It expresses opposition to any form of normalization with the Israeli entity and its people. The document reaffirms basic principles and decisions of the Arab Association of Writers on this issue, as laid out in a guideline to the association.

The Alaraz paper stated: "We declare our commitment to the internal bylaws of the Union of

Arab Writers and Intellectuals, to which this association belongs. The bylaws establish that no state will be recognized which does not recognize our rights and human existence and whose aim is the forcible imperialist control of our land. No contacts with people from this place shall take place." (Almagad, Jordan, July 25)

THERE ARE indications that in the autonomous areas and the West Bank, the Eagles and Panthers of Fatah have moved from ceasefire to conflict and that the struggle between Arafat and the Eagles has been renewed.

Last month an armed Fatah Eagles cell carried out several attacks in the territories, especially in the northern areas of the West Bank. This and the murder of Mahmud Abu Altin from Tulkarm last week are evidence of the conflict between Arafat's leadership and the Fatah Eagles.

Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip have been surprised by the amount of arms held by the Panthers and Eagles, so much so that they had failed to control them on the day of the

[Erez checkpoint] battle.

Despite all the efforts of Arafat and his aides to gain control of the situation in the territories, the situation does not indicate that he has enjoyed much success. (Shichan, Jordan, July 23)

PALESTINIAN sources say a Canadian company known as A.P.T. will not be allowed to execute special tenders for projects installing wire and wireless communications systems in the self-rule areas. The sources say an investigation revealed that the firm is a shell company whose real owners are the Israeli communications authority Bezek, which has a monopoly for carrying out all communications projects in Israel. (Al Aswak, Jordan, July 24)

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DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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## The Shenhar report

THE report on Jewish studies in secular schools, submitted by a committee headed by Haifa University Rector Aliza Shenhar, has touched on a painful, fundamental problem: the identity crisis of Israeli youth.

The recommendations themselves - to expand and encourage Jewish studies in an effort to inculcate humanistic values and raise Jewish consciousness - are unexceptionable. So is the idea that Jewish education need not be a monopoly of the observant; or, as Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein put it on Sunday, that "Judaism is too important to be left only in the hands of the Orthodox." Particularly promising is the recommendation to use an interdisciplinary approach, combining subjects such as Bible, oral law, Jewish history, Hebrew, Zionism, and literature.

What troubles the committee is that the present alternative is between a narrow Orthodox view of Judaism and a vacuum caused by the absence of a cultural identity. For the secular majority, Zionist ideology and the struggle for the state used to provide a substitute for religion. But the apparent arrival at the fulfillment of the Zionist goal has left the secular youth floundering in a sea of imitation. To see tens of thousands of Israelis shrieking for Madonna is to wonder if Tel Aviv has become a suburb of Los Angeles.

Whether greater knowledge of Jewish tradition, history and values alone will help solve the problem is yet to be proved. When combined with faith, such knowledge is a powerful force. The

fact is that all the worrisome negative trends in Jewish life, such as assimilation in the Diaspora and emigration from Israel, are almost unknown among the religious Zionists. Even more impressive is the dramatic growth of the number of graduates of religious-Zionist youth movements and yeshivot in key positions in the army combat units. To the amazement and often discomfort of the secular, the zeal and fervor of early Zionism seems to exist almost exclusively among products of religious Zionist education.

Clearly, the Shenhar committee is concerned not about the fervent religious minority but the indifferent secular majority. It hopes that greater emphasis on Jewish awareness and knowledge will fill this majority's identity vacuum. For it must realize that without a clear sense of identity as Jews and Israelis, the young will find it difficult to justify living here, rather than anywhere else.

Yet knowledge in itself may not suffice. The real challenge for Israel is not only to educate the secular but to redefine the purpose of Zionism for them. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said that the time has come for "economic Zionism," a euphemism for converting ideals into material achievements. But while creating a prosperous haven in Israel and a hoped-for Middle Eastern common market are commendable goals, only a sense of national purpose and cultural continuity can sustain Israel as a Jewish state. It is a challenge which will demand more than adding hours of Jewish studies to the high school curriculum.

## Refugees from Israel

THAT Russian immigrants who arrive in Israel under the "law of return" and say they feel "persecuted" are admitted to Canada as refugees could be a comic footnote to history. But the conduct of the Canadian authorities is more than just a display of bureaucratic asininity. It reeks of Israel-bashing.

In all immigrations there are those who do not integrate. Considering the number of immigrants who have arrived in Israel in the past five years - some from Canada - and the cultural and economic difficulties they encounter, it is nothing short of amazing that the percentage that are dissatisfied is not larger. None of the great immigration waves to the US, for example, was as successful.

Nor is there any country in the world that gives as much to immigrants. Israel provides newcomers with a year's livelihood to enable them to make their first steps in the country, study Hebrew, and find living accommodations and employment. That the rate of joblessness among immigrants is not much higher than that of the rest of the population is an exceptional achievement.

Inevitably, some immigrants encounter discrimination. No country is free of bigotry and bias, especially when a large wave of newcomers seems to threaten the mores, livelihood and values of the local population. But the Canadian authorities would deem it unthinkable to allow Afro-Americans, Hispanics, Jews, and Asians who

feel ethnically, religiously and culturally "persecuted" in the US to apply for entry as refugees. It is commonly and justly assumed that while many injustices exist in democracies, there is no such thing as "refugees" from open societies.

Clearly, the Russians who knocked on Canada's door would have been treated like any other immigrants had they not arrived from Israel. That the Canadian authorities let them in as refugees on the basis of such ridiculous charges as that the Israeli government had "forced" them to attend synagogue services is a slap at Israel which the government must vigorously protest.

But it may be advisable to consider a point Natan Sharansky made yesterday on a radio talk show. As part of the "evidence" of Israeli persecution, the Russians cited pronouncements by Israeli politicians who are now ministers, including Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, which described Israel as a racist, fascist state. Even now, advertisements and petitions, signed by the prime minister's wife Leah Rabin, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh and other public personalities, call for war against the fascism which is threatening Israel's body politic.

Such verbal violence may be perceived in Israel as nothing but irresponsible, hysterical hyperbole. But when it is delivered by government ministers they must impress other governments as a statement of fact.



## Sickness in Jerusalem

FOR the first time, a Jewish government has formally recognized Jordan's standing vis-a-vis holy Islamic sites in Jerusalem.

Israel has promised to accord "high priority for Jordan's historic role" in these holy places. It is interesting to ponder the length of that "history."

Israel's agreement last week is far-reaching, since it also establishes facts in the future settlement concerning Jerusalem.

All this without a referendum, without elections, a Knesset or cabinet decision. It's as though it was a private matter. No, they would probably have taken more care over a private matter.

Jordan isn't the only country with standing on the Temple Mount. The King of Morocco is angling for influence, and the monarch of Saudi Arabia is lusting for a share. And what about Yasser Arafat?

A vigorous argument is raging over who has more right. Yet the only element not cited by the government of Israel is the Jewish People - as though, from our point of view, the Temple Mount was something marginal.

Some clarification is in order. Only one people - the Jewish people - exercises sovereignty over Jerusalem in all its parts - especially our holy sites, and primarily the Temple Mount.

We cannot accept any foreign sovereignty over Jerusalem. Full rights of religious worship, yes; sovereign status - never.

This kind of talk isn't pleasant. It tends to spoil things. There's everyone rejoicing, making toasts, putting on their glad rags, black ties and all. They listen to the speakers with tear-filled eyes, and those speeches are really something.

And here I come to snuff out their joy.

The government's reasons for handing the Temple Mount over to foreigners lie somewhere between ignorance and contempt. They ex-

ARIEL SHARON

plain that since the 7th century BCE, some 1,300 years ago, it became the third most holy site for Muslims.

But they ignore what happened in 999 BCE, about 3,000 years ago, when Jerusalem became the capital of the Jewish People, and the Temple Mount the most holy place for Israel.

They try to sway us with emotion, saying that King Hussein's

This government seems to respect all religions, all traditions except its own

grandfather was assassinated on the Temple Mount. It was a sad, deplorable event. But if ownership or sovereignty over an area is to be granted just because someone's grandfather was murdered there - well, then the Jewish People would have many possessions around the world.

"The king has invested a great deal of money - \$10m. - in renovating the Dome of the Rock," the government constantly reminds us regarding Hussein's link to Jerusalem. "For 27 years, Jordan bore the expenses of the Muslim Waqf." The king is a sympathetic man. He evokes respect and esteem. If only we could arrive at a real peace agreement with him!

BUT WHAT has all that to do with our boldest site?

Ten million dollars is a lot of money. The king was forced to sell a villa in Europe to raise it. On the other side stands Jewish history: the conquest of Jerusalem 3,000 years ago by King David, the bitter war

against Babylon and the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE, after almost 400 years of Jewish independence; the Babylonian Exile, the Jewish attempts at rebellion in order to return to Jerusalem.

Then came the Second Temple, the wars against the Greeks, the conquest of Jerusalem by Judah the Maccabee in 164 BCE; the great rebellion against the Romans in 70 CE, the destruction of the Second Temple, the ruin of Jerusalem. The Bar Kochba Rebellion was in 132. In 339, Constantine the Byzantine banned the Jewish religion, massacring many Jews who tried to hold on to Jerusalem.

The Crusaders cruelly slaughtered Jews in 1099, after the courageous Jewish defense of the walls of Jerusalem.

There has almost never been a time when Jews did not fight for the right to live in Jerusalem. In our own time, in 1920, 1921, 1929 and 1936-39, fierce Arab onslaughts were unleashed against Jews defending Jerusalem. In the War of Independence, bitter battles were waged to defend besieged Jerusalem and break a way through to it. There were thousands of Jewish casualties.

In the Six Day War, Jordan again tried to conquer all of Jerusalem, but its forces were repelled, and the city was liberated. "The Temple Mount is ours!" proclaimed Mordechai Gur, the brigade commander whose men liberated the Temple Mount. That call reverberated far and wide!

I shall never forget the faces of the soldiers in my division during the battles in Sinai, when we heard of the liberating of the Temple Mount.

"You gave up every last centimeter of Sinai," cries the prime minister, as he relinquishes the last centimeter of the soul of Judaism.

The Temple Mount is no longer ours.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former minister of defense.

## Road movie

WENDY BLUMFIELD

THE distance between Haifa and Jerusalem is 158 km., a negligible distance in any country with well-maintained roads and efficient public transport.

During this academic year, I have traveled between the two cities several times, but still haven't worked out a method of covering these 158 km. without arriving exhausted and unkempt.

It isn't public-spirited to drive alone in a four-seater vehicle, though the occasional hitchhiking soldier does save my conscience. I wouldn't choose to drive to Jerusalem if I had a really viable alternative, for my car is old, lacks air-conditioning, and, like a small child, complains urgently of thirst in the middle of a traffic jam.

Trying to reach the capital in time to start a working day means coming up against several thousand other drivers. And no route will get one to the capital from Haifa in less than three hours.

The old route through Kfar Sava and the airport is a maze of winding roads with traffic lights every few meters. Both the Ayalon and the Geha highways can be approached only through the

The distance between Haifa and Jerusalem is measured in much more than kilometers

Herzliya bottleneck, and since its opening, the Ayalon has been functioning at half capacity owing to the closure of lanes for repairs.

(I have even considered going through Afeka to the Jordan Valley and up to Jerusalem through the Jericho road in order to avoid Herzliya.)

As you approach Jerusalem, there are further tie-ups as traffic converges from Ramat.

EXPRESS BUSES leave Haifa fairly frequently in the peak hours, but the problem starts at home.

Both Egged and the Haifa Municipality are convinced that residents of the Carmel are very wealthy and do not need public transport. Traveling between neighborhoods can involve two changes of buses, each bus running once an hour. Thus getting from my home in Carmel to the central bus station (which I can almost see from my window) can take between 60 and 90 minutes.

If I drive to the bus station and park the car there, I get caught in traffic jam; the city planners, in their wisdom, built the bus and railway stations, hospital and navy base in one area.

A few of the Tel Aviv buses start and finish on the Carmel, and it would save a great deal of time if, during peak hours, the Jerusalem line offered this option. Apart from being inconvenient, buses are crowded, noisy and extremely uncomfortable if one has to carry any kind of equipment.

Last week, I was due in Jerusalem mid-morning, so I did the unthinkable. I traveled by train. I adore trains, and would always opt for this method of travel if they actually ran to the destinations I need. The Haifa-Jerusalem train takes three hours - including a transfer in Tel Aviv - no more than a car or bus during peak hours.

Getting to Tel Aviv takes only 80 minutes, but the climb through the exquisite forests and mountains up to the capital takes almost two hours. Comfortable upholstered seats, a table to prop up one's book or write notes, plenty of storage space for bags and equipment and adequate washrooms mean you get into Jerusalem feeling fresh and ready for the day. So why doesn't every recalcitrant traveler choose the train?

The timing is the first obstacle. There is only one train, leaving Haifa at 7:15 a.m. On Sundays, when soldiers and students are on the move, no extra train is provided. If you don't buy a ticket before 7 a.m., there is no chance of getting a seat. Most passengers alight at Tel Aviv, but there is no other immediate connection to Jerusalem for those continuing on to the capital.

The first available train reaches Jerusalem at 10:20, too late for a working day.

As for amenities, there isn't even drinking water on the Jerusalem train, not to mention coffee of vending-machine food.

So, in most cases, when time is precious and I am overloaded, it's easier to walk out the front door, fill up the car with the things I need for the day, tune in the radio to the Voice of Music and do the three hours' drive to Jerusalem.

The writer is a childbirth educator.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YESHA AND MDA

Sir, - Yochanan Gur's letter on MDA operations in Judea, Samaria and Gaza entitled, "Magen David Adom Responds to Complaints," (July 22), demands response.

While Gur refers to our claims as "...a mixture of partial facts and distorted interpretation," the truth speaks for itself:

a) There are no MDA stations in the territories.

b) MDA does not "operate" a fleet of 75 ambulances in the territories. The ambulances are leased (\$40,000 for a refurbished ambulance, \$40,000 for a new ambulance and \$60,000 for a new MICU - Mobile Intensive Care Unit) to the communities in the territories and are returned to MDA after 10 years. They are not "handed over" as Gur claims.

c) All auxiliary costs, i.e. training, maintenance and equipment, are paid by the communities.

d) MDA stations inside the Green Line cannot be counted on for support service as drivers are not familiar with the roads in the territories and are afraid to travel without army escort. (On July 13 a 13-year-old boy, Dan Hiliati, from Shavei Shomron suffered a series of deep gashes in his upper inner thigh and almost bled to death because an MDA ambulance from Netanya refused to cross the Green Line.)

e) MDA suffers in no way from its independent campaign because all

monies raised are paid to MDA for ambulances. The statistics presented by Gur are disingenuous to say the least: "one ambulance per 2,000 settlers in the territories while the ratio in Israel/Green Line is only one ambulance per 19,500 inhabitants."

The bulk of Israel's population lives in the major urban centers in close proximity to local hospitals and clinics. This necessitates fewer ambulances. The territories, though, are a huge rural area with small communities spread from south of Afeka to the north and to Beersheba and Gaza in the south. This demands a larger number of ambulances per capita.

In addition, the territories suffer the highest rate of terrorist attacks and traffic accidents and enjoy the highest birth rate in the country.

While Gur's claim that the Health Ministry has decided to establish two MDA stations in the territories (in Ariel and Kiryat Arba) is true, it is not all the truth. The "decision" was in

fact a recommendation made first in 1981 and then again in 1991. The recommendation has yet to be implemented.

It is regrettable that MDA sees the territories' ambulance campaign as competition or rivalry. For MDA to have chosen a course to attempt to discredit us in order to undermine our efforts is reprehensible.

It is our responsibility to do so in cooperation with MDA. We can only hope that it is in MDA's interest to do the same.

Brig. Gen. (Res.) YOSSI KOLLER  
Director, Department of Security  
Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza

YECHIEL LEITER  
Executive Director  
Foreign Desk  
Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza

Jerusalem.

BILLY BUDD'S MESSAGE

Sir, - Those who rail at the rising tide of public protest against the government's "peace" policies would do well to learn from Melville's tragic tale of Billy Budd.

Billy was a young well-behaved loyal sailor who was falsely accused by his malicious master-at-arms of instigating a mutiny among the ship's crew. He suffered from a speech im-

pediment and was tongue-tied in the face of these unbelievable charges. Suddenly he struck a blow at his accuser, which killed him. When asked by the captain to explain his loss of self control, he said: "Could I have used my tongue I would not have struck him."

RABBI ISAAC COHEN  
Jerusalem.

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# Just a nudge or a tickle can stabilize chaos

JOHN SCHWARTZ  
WASHINGTON

In a slightly dingy lab just across the Anacostia River, Thomas Carroll is exploring the frontiers of physics. And he soldered together his experiment with parts he bought for about \$20 at an electronics chain store.

"This is one of those fields," said Carroll, a researcher at the Naval Research Laboratory, "where a high-school student could have as good equipment as one of the top labs."

He works in the burgeoning field of chaos theory, a discipline that tries to explain — and perhaps control — the way systems that obey clear, simple rules develop into the complex, unpredictable patterns underlying phenomena as diverse as weather systems, financial markets and many of the body's essential rhythms.

The name is misleading: "Chaos" has a commonsense connotation of total randomness. But while "chaos" is certainly not regular or predictable, it is anything but random, said William Ditto, a Georgia Institute of Technology physicist: "People have a real good grip on regularity, like the ticking of a clock and the beating of your heart. And they understand irregularity, something that has no pattern at all, like the throwing of dice or the spinning of a roulette wheel. What we're finding is that most of nature does something in between."

Weather systems, for instance, are fairly predictable in the short term; but as anyone who watches the evening news knows, weather often cannot be foreseen into the weekend.

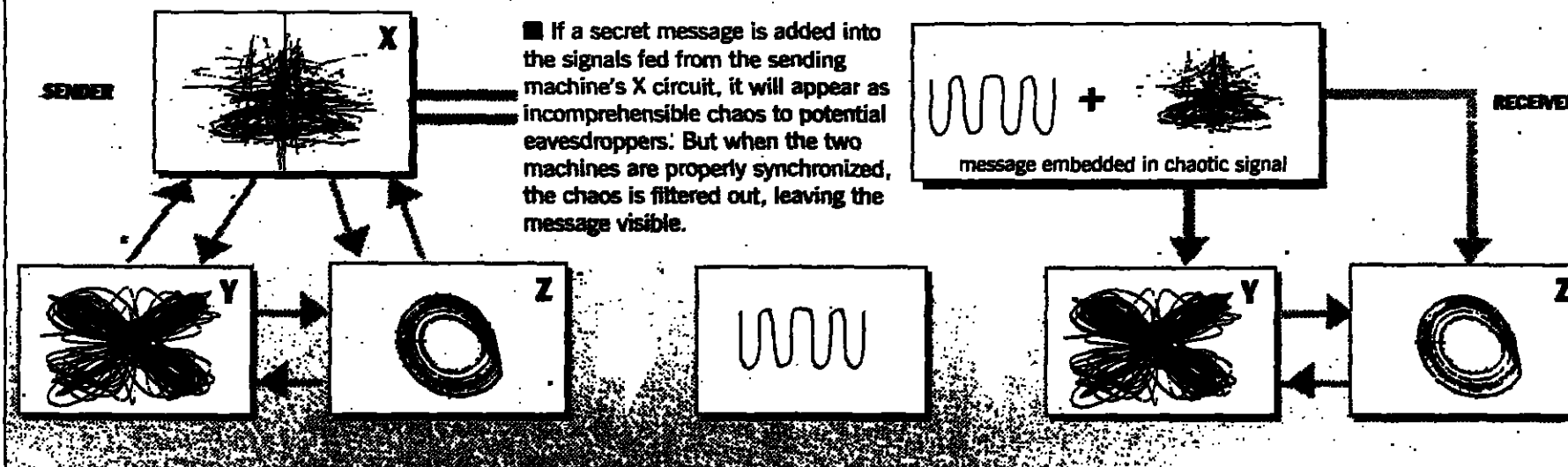
One reason is chaotic systems are very sensitive to even tiny fluctuations in their initial conditions. It has become a chaos cliché to note that a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil can end up causing a devastating tropical storm.

So some scientists are working on the opposite effect: They are using tiny fluctuations to help chaotic systems reset themselves into a stable, linear state. Scientists like Carroll and NRL colleague Louis Pecora are even finding ways to take advantage of the special qualities inherent in chaotic systems.

It is not hard to imagine controlling chaos: With a little practice and skill, you can keep a pencil balanced on its tip

**S**o-called chaotic phenomena are those that are governed by simple, deterministic rules and events (brokers buying and selling, hot air rising, heart cells beating), but that are so sensitive to slight variations that they evolve into complex, unpredictable systems: the tumult of the stock market, a storm front, or a cardiac-rhythm disorder. Many researchers are now searching for ways to control chaotic systems and exploit their peculiar qualities.

Naval Research Laboratory physicists Louis M. Pecora and Thomas C. Carroll have developed an ingenious system to scramble messages using chaos. It involves two identical machines, each with three chaos-producing sub-circuits whose signals are combined. Ordinarily, the sum of all three signals on each machine would be different. But if the X signal from the first machine is fed into the Y and Z circuits of the second machine, it will "drive" the system into a condition where the two machines are synchronized and produce the same output.



Some of the ways being tried to control chaotic systems.

from falling by gently countering its shifts with careful jiggles of the hand. The theoretical underpinnings of this "nudging" strategy were worked out in 1990 by three scientists at the University of Maryland; and in a seminal experiment, researchers at the Naval Surface Warfare Laboratories found that they could take a metal strip that normally would respond chaotically to a fluctuat-

ing magnetic field and nudge it into patterns of regular oscillations. Raj Roy of Georgia Tech has used similar techniques to make more powerful lasers. Some lasers go chaotic at higher energy levels than they are designed for, losing the coherence and strength of the beam. But with the proper electromagnetic nudges, lasers retain their linear nature at much higher power levels.

Researchers at the NRL have boosted laser output by a factor of 15. Researchers believe our own bodies present some of the more interesting possibilities for chaos control. When the heart goes into fibrillation during a heart attack, its beats seem to go from a regular rhythm to a chaotic one. Ditto and others, experimenting with rabbit hearts, have found that mild

electrical charges delivered with careful timing to a fibrillating heart can bring the muscle back into its normal rhythm — a very different treatment from the high-intensity shock used by conventional defibrillators to knock the heart back into rhythm. Ditto describes the method as giving "a very small tickle to the system instead of pounding it with a large jolt" and says

the first human trials could begin by the end of this year.

Chaos-control techniques might also help solve some of the mysteries of the brain. The signals fired by healthy nerve cells in the brain seem to be chaotic: When they become too periodic, epileptic seizures can occur.

Scientists, such as neurosurgeon Steven Schiff at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, are exploring whether the signals can be interpreted, predicting seizures and perhaps even controlling them.

Under current medical practice, many patients who do not respond to medication are offered surgery to remove the malfunctioning brain tissue that causes seizures. Patients who opt for surgery receive electrodes laid on the brain or implanted within it to identify the bad spots.

Patients who grant Schiff permission for further observation provide him with a living laboratory to observe nerve-signal patterns.

If his research bears fruit, Schiff said, it might be possible some day to implant a tiny computer in the patient that would sense an oncoming seizure and gently stimulate the brain back out of sync.

Rather than suppress chaos, Pecora and Carroll are trying to exploit it. They linked two systems with circuits that generate currents that fluctuate chaotically.

Because of that unpredictability, common sense would dictate that even two identical systems would still generate very different outputs. But when Carroll connects the two systems with a cable so that the signal from one component of the first system is fed into the second, the output emerging from both systems becomes synchronized.

On the screen of a nearby oscilloscope, the signature squiggles that represent the interplay of the two systems' signals calm themselves into a straight line, the picture of stability: Chaos has been harnessed.

A possible application is encryption. The researchers have injected messages into one of the chaotic signals: Any interloper listening into the transmission would just pick up noise.

But by synchronizing the linked circuits, Pecora and Carroll have been able to create receivers that filter out the chaos and deliver the message.

(The Washington Post)

## Teacher finds pals around the world Inventors of languages have trouble communicating

**B**ARRY Simon, a 51-year-old Montreal math teacher, gets more mail than most other people — and the postmarks are from all over the world.

Simon, who founded International Jewish Correspondence (IJC), has put thousands of Jews around the globe in touch with each other. "One of the reasons I'm doing this," says Simon, who is visiting Israel, "is to strengthen Jewish ties." Stressing the importance of pen pals to residents of small Jewish communities in which there is very little Jewish culture, Simon says: "If I can create the feeling that you're not totally isolated, but that you're part of a greater whole, this will keep Jews within the faith and may even bring them to Israel."

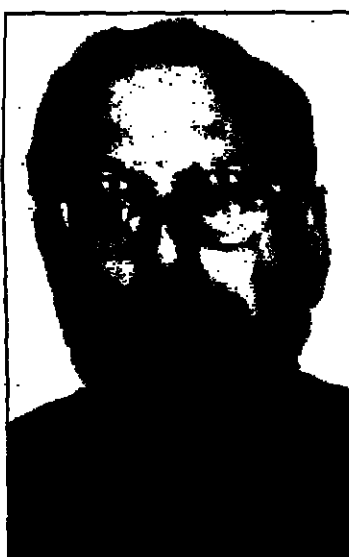
Always on the lookout for new opportunities, he has been delighted during this visit to find people who will help him make contact with Jews in Tunis and on the island of Djirba.

Simon, who is too busy processing IJC applications to have any pen pals of his own these days, at one time corresponded with friends in over 20 countries. It all began when he was 13, and laid out at home for a month with a severe chest ailment. His constant demands were getting on his mother's nerves, and in desperation she suggested that since he was interested in geography, it might be worthwhile to write abroad and get some pen pals.

So he wrote to a newspaper in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and received many replies. Over the next four years his correspondence increased. "It made me aware of what was going on in the lives of people," he says. "Where I would write wasn't just a name on a map, but culture and beliefs."

At age 17, Simon decided he wanted to learn more about Jewish communities outside Canada, and wrote to a number of institutions to find Jewish pen pals. The

GREER FAY CASHMAN



Simon: Israel is the logical place to establish a Jewish pen-pal service.

only response he received was from the Youth and Hehalutz Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

In 1971, when searching for pen pals for his students at the now defunct Monkland High School, he wrote to Israel for addresses, and got a huge batch from the office of Nathan Wallach, then deputy mayor of Tel Aviv. Simon believes that Israel is the logical place to establish a Jewish pen-pal service. He envisions a pen-pal center with residential facilities near Ben-Gurion Airport. "Jerusalem would also be a natural place for a center," he says, "because just about everyone comes to Jerusalem."

In 1978 the Canadian Jewish Congress agreed to sponsor IJC and to become its clearing house. Letters have come from people as old as 80 and as young as five. The latter was from the daughter of the rabbi who heads the only synagogue in Newfoundland.

IJC has spearheaded at least one marriage — that of Amalia Shofel from Pardes Hanna to Gary Mogel from Englewood, New Jersey, in 1991.

Romance is only one reason people look for pen pals. Many correspondents are interested in travel and want to find out about prospective destinations from locals. Others like to have someone to call when they go abroad.

One of the IJC's avid correspondents, Sella Yair of Haifa, recently formed The Israeli Correspondence Club. Simon helped him get started. Yair, a 21-year-old soldier, has stopped writing to all but one pen pal, in Cyprus. "The interest fizzled out," he explains. As a letter-writer himself, Yair received mail from 80 countries including some in the Arab world, whose letters arrived via a third country. "I persuaded a girl in Lebanon that our soldiers were not as brutal as she thought," Yair says.

Unlike Simon, Yair does not want to confine his service to Jews. "That would make it too limited," he says.

Simon's daughter, Karen, 22, had female pen pals in Michigan, Florida, London and Norway. "Going to these places and learning about how people grew up there are two different things," she says. "[Letter-writing] opens your eyes to life in other countries — the fashion, the slang and how Judaism is practiced."

Simon's younger brother Norman, who for 15 years taught English at the Tchernichovsky High School in Netanya, used IJC to put his students in touch with the outside world. The address of International Jewish Correspondence is c/o Canadian Jewish Congress, 1590 Doctor Penfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1C5, Canada. Fax: (514) 931-0548.

The Israeli Correspondence Club is at 22 Adam Hachohen Street, Haifa. Tel. 04-327289.

**A**s if the Babel of existing languages wasn't confusing enough, Dutch linguists are busy inventing new tongues unintelligible to everyone — even their creators.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Association for Geofiction, a club for people who create their own fantasy land and often an imaginary language to go with it.

Members meet regularly to discuss customs and rules of grammar, but communication is not their strong point.

"It's a rather individual thing — we all want to speak about our own languages," says Roland Tweehuisen, the world's only speaker of Spocanian, a language he invented at the age of five and has developed so highly that 40 years later it has grown too difficult for him.

"It's become so complicated that I can't speak the language any more," he admits.

Primitive scribbles in a school exercise book have evolved into thousands of pages of fiendishly complex grammatical constructions and lists of vocabulary recording 25,000 words.

As Tweehuisen grew up, his passion for language spawned a fictional land: Spocania, an island group in the Atlantic Ocean. Its name comes from the Dutch word "spook," meaning ghost.

Spocania — roughly twice the size of its creator's native Netherlands — is home to seven million inhabitants who worship the full moon, live mostly on mutton and fish, and are ruled by a benevolent king.

The country may be imaginary but it is not fluid. As soon as Tweehuisen pulls an idea from the air it is carved in stone, never to be changed.

"Everything I say — at that moment it's true," Tweehuisen says, adding that this can cause regrets: "Perhaps I would prefer another location for Spocania now

ABIGAIL LEVENE  
AMSTERDAM

but I can't change it."

BOUDEWIJN REMPT is not content with just one fantasy language. The inventor of an entire group of tongues, called Charyan, he creates one full grammar system a year.

"I've got a few classical and a few vernacular languages," says 24-year-old Rempt, who studied linguistics at university and is now following a computer programming course.

Many people misunderstand the passion that drives him, he says, citing an acquaintance who accused him of inventing languages just to talk about others behind their backs.

"If I wanted to do that I'd use Chinese," Rempt says earnestly. He lists classical Tibetan, Russian, Nepali, Latin and German as just some of the other languages he has mastered.

His own Charyan tongues elude him. "I don't speak any of my own languages — I don't have the time to learn them," he says.

He envisions his imaginary country as a kind of medieval China, where strict social stratifica-

tion demands a number of dialects to feed his hunger for linguistic invention.

His wife Irina's own fantasy land, Naldyas, is a large medieval kingdom "around half the size of Europe," situated somewhere in another universe.

It may have less pollution than we do but it is not a perfect place, she says: "I'd like to go there on holiday, but I'd miss the coffee and the showers."

TWEEHUISEN, A linguistics expert at Amsterdam University, saw the vacation potential of his country 12 years ago. He published a tourist guide to Spocania, which sold 10,000 copies.

The book, bulging with information on the islands and the customs of its inhabitants, prompted thousands of letters — most of them requests for visas — and mixed reactions.

Some readers berated Tweehuisen for plugging a nonexistent country, while others, such as a butcher who took to selling "Spocanian sausage," seized on the idea as a wacky way to make money — much to

Tweehuisen's annoyance. "At least they could have asked me how the sausage ought to taste," he says solemnly.

The language devotees stress the difference between their inventions and artificial languages such as Esperanto, designed in 1887 as a medium for worldwide communication.

"It's like painting pictures — we're just doing it for fun, not for communication with other people," says Irina Rempt.

She too struggles with her brainchild. Reading aloud from the handwritten mass of squiggles which is Naldyan script, she is stumped after a few lines and has to refer to a transcript, typed in the more familiar Roman alphabet.

Spocania has generated much Dutch media interest since a local newspaper ran a story on Tweehuisen in 1968. Earlier this year he appeared on television, speaking Spocanian.

As the only living speaker of the language, that meant he was forced to translate his own words for subtitles — which he says caused him great difficulty.

"I spoke in Spocanian, but then I couldn't understand myself. I had no experience of all those funny sounds I used." (Reuters)

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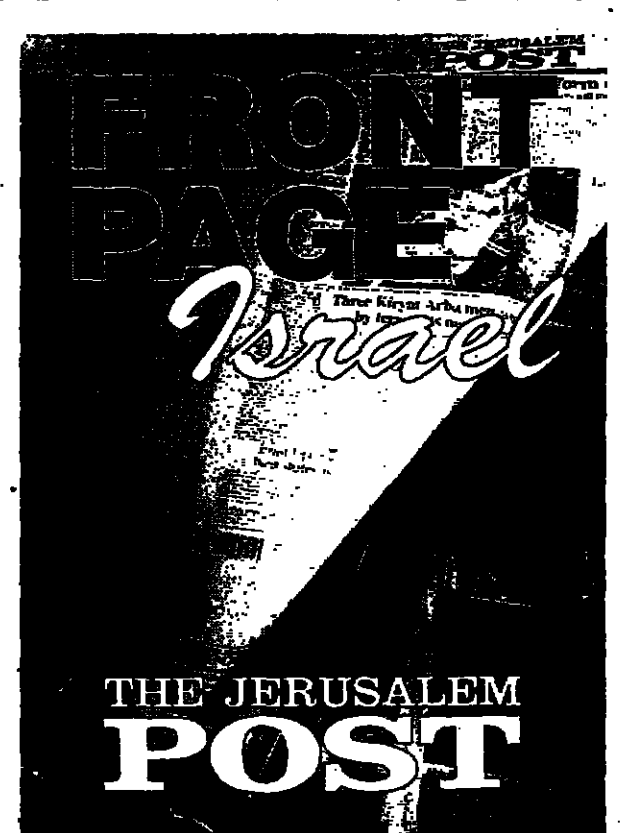
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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1994

## MKs back central bank's fight against inflation, urge Treasury to do its part

## State revenues increase 12%

JOSE ROSENFELD

MEMBERS of the Knesset Finance Committee and economic experts both came out squarely in favor of the Bank of Israel's inflation-fighting efforts yesterday, and warned that the Treasury must do its part as well.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) promised the committee would do its bit to ensure Treasury cooperation, but asked that in exchange, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel commit to not raising interest rates again in the short term.

The constant small rate increases, Gal said, are causing inflationary expectations, which in turn cause inflation.

"Reining in [inflation] is a goal of the first importance," Gal said. "If [Frenkel] will send the message that there is no need to raise rates in the near future, we will work to restrain next year's budget and the cost of labor, and to promote import liberalization."

But Professors Zvi Sussman and Haim Ben-Shahar, who both testified before the committee, strongly supported Frenkel's actions.

"The path of moderate rate increases which the Bank of Israel is

taking is the right path," Sussman said. "The lack of any sizable imports of capital may even indicate that rates still haven't risen enough."

"[Higher inflation] is likely to throw the economy into a spin. Inflation has a very high price, and the fight against it must be at the top of our list of priorities."

Sussman also warned that it would be impossible to maintain the devaluation rate at 6% a year when inflation is expected to be 12%.

Ben-Shahar said it was wrong to attribute inflation to a specific sector, such as housing. The problem is general, he said, and must be addressed by a reduction in the money supply — which is accomplished by raising its price.

"If there is reason to criticize the Bank of Israel, it is for maintaining interest rates at too low a level towards the end of 1993," he said. "The Bank of Israel should certainly be supported now that it has decided to raise rates ... [But] the Bank of Israel's ability to use interest rates as a tool is approaching its limit. The

question is whether the Treasury will do enough via the budget to support a reduction in inflation."

Frenkel stressed that lower interest rates would be possible only with significant action from the Treasury to restrain expenditures, lower taxes and make structural reforms.

"The greater the contribution of budgetary policy and the implementation of structural reforms ... the smaller the burden which will fall on monetary policy," he said. "But it is impossible to impose the fight against inflation solely on monetary policy."

Frenkel advocated tax cuts of NIS 1.6 billion next year and NIS 2b. apiece in 1996 and 1997, compared to the Treasury's proposals of NIS 800 million and NIS 1.2b., respectively.

However, he said, he saw no place for cuts in the defense budget in the near future, due to the increasing burdens that will be placed on it by the peace process.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper tried to convince the committee that the rise in rates is throttling growth. The manufacturers

are paying the price of interest rates aimed at 12% inflation, even though inflation in the manufacturing sector is only 7%-8%, he charged.

Meanwhile, the higher rates are doing nothing to fight rampant inflation in the housing sector. He advocated setting a less stringent goal for inflation and adjusting the devaluation rate accordingly.

However, MKs from across the political spectrum supported Frenkel. "If we don't fight inflation, we're likely to get stagflation," said Ron Nahman (Likud). "There is no choice but to make the fight against inflation a central goal."

Avraham Poraz (Meretz) said the rise in interest rates was necessary for this goal.

"The problem is in the Knesset — primarily in the social lobby," he said, echoing Ben-Shahar's warning.

Eli Dayan (Labor) was the only MK present who disagreed with this stand. He complained that the social lobby has been vastly weakened by the present government, and the fight against inflation must not be on the backs of the weaker members of society.



Frenkel: Lower rates possible only if Treasury restrains expenditures, lower taxes.

STATE revenues rose 12 percent to NIS 6.1 billion last month compared with July 1993, reflecting the economy's continued expansion, State Revenues Director Yoram Gabai reported yesterday.

During the first seven months of the year, revenues grew 14% to NIS 41.8b.

Excluding legislative changes made throughout the year, which reduced tax collection by NIS 800 million, receipts increased 16%.

Income tax revenues overestimated by NIS 1.5b. from the beginning of the year, as they grew by 22%.

Treasury officials now expect that until the end of the year, they will collect NIS 2b. in taxes over their original estimates.

The Treasury is planning to use this surplus to pay for the redeployment of the army as a result of the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians and to reduce indirect taxes to help lower inflation.

Company income taxes and property taxes contributed the unexpected surplus.

Property taxes shot up by more

than 50%, and company taxes by more than 40%. By contrast, individual income tax receipts only grew 10%.

The significant rise is attributed to the high profits firms made from their regular commercial activities, as well as from their investments in the stock market at the end of last year.

Property tax revenues reflect both the rise in property prices and an active real estate market.

In July, income tax revenues rose a real 18% to NIS 3.4b. Value Added Tax (VAT) and customs receipts increased a more moderate 5% to NIS 2.6b.

VAT and customs receipts show that during the first half of the year economic activity expanded by 9% compared to the previous six months.

Except for cars, durable imports continued rising last month. Car imports dropped 10% to 9,000 last month compared with the average number of car imports in previous months.

By contrast, video recorder imports rose 32%, refrigerators 28%, dishwashers 26%, televisions 16% and laundry washers 3%.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ministry transfers NIS 20m. in funds to growers of certain crops: The Agriculture Ministry will transfer NIS 20m. in funds to various growers of certain crops, such as grain for wheat or hay. The money will be transferred following a decision by Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to support farmers, mainly in the South. Their plan is intended to prevent farmers from abandoning land.

The Agriculture Ministry agreed to transfer NIS 9 per dunam in the North and NIS 35 in the South. The funds will help farmers cultivate 900,000 dunams of land.

Zeharia Hagabi named new Poultry Board chairman: The Agriculture Ministry yesterday appointed Zeharia Hagabi chairman of the Poultry Board. Hagabi takes over from Yonatan Basi, Agriculture Ministry director-general. Naphthali Ben-Sira will continue to serve as the Poultry Board director-general.

Swiss bank Bank Leumi le-Israel highly: Bank Leumi le-Israel (Switzerland) yesterday announced it was ranked first in return on equity and sixth in net profits in 1993 among the foreign banks in Switzerland, according to the Association of Swiss Banks. Bank Leumi completed last year with a SF 30.2m. net profit and 20.1 percent return on equity. The association ranked Bank Leumi first among the Israeli banks and before Republic Bank.

Aryt in talks for \$1m. private placement with foreign investor: Aryt Industries has notified the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange that it is negotiating an agreement for a \$1 million private placement with a foreign investor. The agreement also includes the conversion of subsidiary Reshef's stock to that of Aryt's.

The investor, a company client who wished to become more involved in the group, held 7% of Reshef. Following the share transfer, he will hold 10.3% of Aryt.

Pass-Port negotiating \$9.5m. share purchase in US firm: Pass-Port is negotiating a \$9.5 million share purchase in a US-based home electric appliances concern. Together with the US firm, the company intends to set up a limited partnership with a US-based financial consultant as general partner. Pass-Port has requested that parent company JOEL obligate itself to provide additional funding, should this prove necessary.

Court petitioned against making Dudaim national waste dump: Beersheba and four local councils in the area yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against plans to make nearby Dudaim a national waste dump. The petitioners asked the court to order an environmental impact study and forbid any work on it until the study is completed.

Tezra increases investment in Nova Measuring Instruments: Venture capital fund Tezra has increased its investment in Nova Measuring Instruments to NIS 2 million. Tezra now holds 26 percent in the company, which is developing advanced instrumentation for use by the semiconductor industry.

Topap inaugurates production line: Topap yesterday inaugurated its production line in the presence of Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish. The company was established to manufacture fries for the local McDonald's fast food chain. Sunfood will market Topap's Top Chips to fast food chains like McDonald's, Burger King, Burger Ranch and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

### WORLD BRIEFS

Oil prices fall on traders nervous about Nigeria: Oil prices fell sharply but later recovered some of their losses in nervous trading dominated by the latest news from oil-rich Nigeria, where civil strife threatens vital oil supplies.

London oil prices, which had staged a volatile rally on Monday, fell as much as 60 cents a barrel from opening levels on market beliefs that Nigeria's government would announce the release of Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential election. Abiola was arrested last month and charged with treason for proclaiming himself president and his freedom is one of the key demands of oil workers for ending their five-week strike.

But prices later recovered about half their lost ground when unions said his release would not be enough to end their five-week strike.

World airlines' profits surge: World airlines, hoping to return to profit after four years of losses, saw traffic surge in the first half of 1994, their coordinating body IATA reported.

BP posts stronger than expected earnings: Oil giant British Petroleum reported stronger than forecast second-quarter earnings, boosted by higher output and rigorous cost-cutting. Despite a squeeze in refining margins, gains from rising oil prices and improvements in chemicals helped BP to a £367 million second-quarter replacement cost net profit.

Copper prices drop to six-week low: Copper prices slumped to the lowest levels for six weeks, as speculators sold on signs of a slowdown in copper demand, traders and analysts said. Prices dropped to \$2.362 a tonne at one stage, a loss of \$64 from Monday, and nearly \$200, or some 7.5 percent below last month's two-year highs.

Bank of England expects inflation to peak above 3% in '96: The Bank of England said it expects underlying inflation to peak just above three percent in the first quarter of 1996, then fall back.

West German industrial output rises 1%: West German industrial output rose one percent in June from the month before, and economists said this showed the whole country was in a good position to achieve strong growth in the second half of this year.

## Shohat: Inflation rise doesn't merit change in foreign exchange's 'crawling peg'

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday there is no need to change the foreign exchange system's "crawling peg" devaluation rate of the shekel, despite the rise in inflation.

"We will not touch the 'crawling peg'; we will not adopt a policy that will interfere with monetary measures [taken by the Bank of Israel]," said Shohat.

He was speaking to Kibbutz Industries representatives on a visit to the South.

The industrialists complained that their profits are being squeezed by higher prices and inflation, and by an exchange rate which has a negative impact on exports.

Shohat responded that the currency basket is rising at a rate of 12 percent against the shekel, which more or less reflects production price increases.

"I want to remind you that industrial material prices are not the same as the Consumer Price Index, since

the index is being pushed up by housing prices," he said. "Your regular industrial inputs do not include housing, not every plant buys six apartments a month."

Shohat noted that last year, the Producer Price Index rose by 7.5%, although housing prices jumped by over 20%, and that this year the situation was similar.

"I am not saying we don't have to deal with the problem of inflation, but

we will not get involved in the convolutions of changing the 'crawling peg' and adjusting rates," he said. "The exchange rate based on the 'crawling peg' currently suits economic policy."

He called on the industrialists who complain about lower profitability to undertake efficiency measures.

Shohat said the industry is still profitable, despite all the complaints, and suggested to the industrialists "to pack more of their products and send them abroad."

## Environment Ministry given more say in closing factories

LIAT COLLINS

THE amendment to the Business License Law, passed in second and third reading by the Knesset last week, gives the Environment Ministry a greater say in granting business permits and closing down factories causing environmental damage.

"I will take strict measures against those harming the environment," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said yesterday. "I won't hesitate to use my authority against factories which cause harm."

He added that the amendment brings local environmental law in line with that of Europe.

"Until now, we had to be content with persuasion and incentives, but from today we can also take strong steps against those who commit a crime against the environment," Sarid said.

Under the terms of the old law, the right to close a factory rested with the head of the local authority, the Interior Ministry's regional representative, the Health Ministry's district head and the police.

The new law also obliges the interior minister, responsible for business licenses, to consult with the environment minister in drawing up categories of businesses that need environment ministry clearance to be licensed.

The Environment Ministry already receives 5,000 license requests a year, a ministry spokeswoman said. Half of them turn out to be irrelevant, having been automatically forwarded by local authorities under the terms of the 1968 Business License Law.

Only about half relate to companies whose work has an environmental impact.

## Laromme chain takes over hotel in Nazareth

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Laromme chain has undertaken the management of what it expects to be the first of a number of popularly priced hotels, the 105-room Laromme Nazareth.

The Laromme chain is a subsidiary of El Al's Tashat services company. Haim Carmel, a senior adviser to Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and chairman of the Tashat business development authority, said the entry into the popular hotel field was in keeping with Kessar's view that there would be a significant increase in the number of pilgrims coming on El Al. The company has also undertaken management of the luxury Princess Hotel in Eilat.

In a related development, a new hotel chain, Hartan Hotels and Recreation, announced it has begun construction of its first hotel, the HolyNet Carmel, in Zichron Ya'acov.

The new chain also has plans for hotels in Upper Nazareth, the Dead Sea, and Jerusalem.

Hartan is a subsidiary of Lidan and JOEL. Hartan director Avi Aggony said the new chain would concentrate primarily on the pilgrim market.

The new chain has also acquired Havat Habaron in Zichron Ya'acov and will sell time-sharing units for that hotel, although Isrotel will continue to operate it under a management agreement.

## Israelis to spend NIS 1b. abroad this summer

HAIM SHAPIRO

ISRAELI tourists will spend about NIS 1 billion in purchases abroad this summer, according to the Geocartography Institute for Spatial Analysis. The institute, headed by Prof. Avi Dagan and Dr. Rina Dagan, estimated that about 750,000 Jewish Israelis over the age of 15 — about a quarter of the population in that category — have plans to go abroad this summer.

A representative survey of 500 of those intending to travel abroad were asked how much they planned to spend shopping.

About half the total amount, or NIS 500 million, was to be spent on clothing, about NIS 300m. on perfume and cosmetics and about NIS 24m. on electronic and electronic appliances. The remaining NIS 176m. was allocated for souvenirs, gifts, cigarettes and music.

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## Tsur calls on Shohat to reject Fogel proposals

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur yesterday called on Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to reject the Fogel Committee's proposals on changing the designation of land from agriculture to building.

Tsur and Shohat are scheduled to appear before representatives of the Agriculture Union today to discuss the issue. They will meet beforehand with the aim of reaching a compromise agreement.

If an agreement is not reached, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will discuss the issue with the agriculture, housing and justice ministers on Sunday.

Tsur said the committee proposals are hostile to the settlements. "The issue will remain a subject of dispute unless it is placed on a fair basis and recognizes farmers' rights to the land," he said.

Tsur said land owners should be compensated at the rate given since 1974, and not at the lower rate proposed by the committee.

He said the land owners are entitled to receive all entrepreneurial rights on the land for industry, trade and tourism, while the Israel Land Development Authority should have rights to initiate development of land for housing.

## Edunetics reports net loss

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

EDUNETICS, an educational software developer, reported a second quarter net loss of \$60,862, as compared with a net profit of \$674,092 for the same period last year.

Revenues rose to \$2.9 million from \$2.5m.

Gilat Satellite Networks posted a 50% increase in second quarter net profits to \$1.2m. from \$800,624 in

the comparable period last year.

Revenues jumped to \$5.9m. from \$3.8m. Earnings per share rose to \$0.15 from \$0.10.

Gilat CEO Yoel Gat said the results "emphasized the company's focus on strategic alliances." Significant developments were the company's involvement with the GTE Spacenet and winning the UK Lottery contract.

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## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (1.8.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.125	4.500	5.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.500	5.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.380	3.375	3.350
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.625	0.675

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.8.94)			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes
U.S. dollar	3.2520	3.2520	1.0000
German mark	3.0248	3.0276	1.0000
French franc	1.3104	1.3104	1.0000
Japanese yen (100)	0.5806	0.5806	1.0000
Dutch guilder	0.3077	0.3077	1.0000
Swiss franc	2.2776	2.2776	1.0000
Swedish krona	0.2904	0.2904	1.0000
Norwegian krone	0.4359	0.4359	1.0000
Denmark krone	0.4607	0.4607	1.0000
Finland mark	0.5818	0.5800	1.0000
Canadian dollar	2.2259	2.2254	1.0000
Australian dollar	2.1756	2.2103	1.0000
S. African rand	0.2625	0.2624	1.0000
Belgian franc (10)	0.9310	0.9441	1.0000
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7329	2.7504	1.0000
Italian lire (1000)	1.8004	1.8009	1.0000
Portuguese escudo	200.48	200.48	1.0000
Spanish peseta (100)	3.0024	3.0141	1.0000
Irish punt	4.3523	4.5571	1.0000
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5304	2.5303	1.0000

\* These rates vary according to bank.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



**ANDRE LIMBROSO**



The two banks are selling for less than book value.

## WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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[illegible]



# Ripken makes 2 grand

## Fans' strike plans still on; Labor Dept. may intervene

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Cal Ripken played his 2,000th straight game Monday night, marching closer toward one of sports' most remarkable and respected records.

Ripken tried to make like it was just another day on the job — the way Lou Gehrig always did it — but the crowd at the Metrodome wouldn't let him.

When he came to bat in the first inning for the Baltimore Orioles, who won 1-0, the public-address announcer proclaimed the achievement. The crowd responded with a standing ovation, and Ripken waved to the fans, then took off his helmet in salute.

Ripken popped out with a runner on third base, ending the first inning against Minnesota. With the appearance, Ripken became only the second major leaguer to play in 2,000 consecutive games. Gehrig played in 2,130 in a row and that, like Cy Young's record of 511 wins, was once thought to be one of baseball's unbreakable records.

At this rate — if there's no strike — Ripken would match Gehrig's mark in the 71st game next year. The Orioles requested they be home for Ripken's record, and the tentative 1995 schedule has accommodated him.

As it stands, Ripken would be at home on June 20 for game No. 2,130 when the Orioles, fittingly, play the New York Yankees, Gehrig's old team. On June 21, Ripken would set the mark against New York at Camden Yards.

"I don't know what this accomplishment means. I'm just glad it means that my teammates can count on me. Beyond that, I don't know."

Meanwhile, fan organizations, angry over the threatened players' strike and promoting a one-day boycott, have moved up the day they hope that the fans will stay away in droves.

"Fans First" and a handful of allied groups are calling for a fans' strike August 11, one day before the strike date set by the players' union.

"The fans are the only people with any idealism left in baseball," Frank Sullivan of "Fans First" said. "Perhaps these millionaires on both sides of the issue can resolve their problems a different way."

"Fans First" initially planned an August 13 fans' strike, but that date was set before the players' union scheduled its date.

"We'll quit on them before they quit on us," Sullivan said.

Between now and then, fans are being urged to chant "No strike, no strike," during the third inning of major league games.

In related developments, the Clinton administration has offered to help break the stalemate.

Labor Secretary Robert Reich met separately last week with the lead negotiators for players and owners, an administration official said Monday.

Eugene Orza, the associate general counsel of the Major League Baseball Players Association, said the union was willing to talk with the Labor Department but not let any outside party impose a settlement.

"We're not interested in submitting to binding arbitration the issue of a salary cap," he said, referring to the proposal to set a maximum limit on players' salaries.

"But we certainly do not exclude from the negotiation process any well-intentioned people who wish to become involved."

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"But we certainly do not exclude from the negotiation process any well-intentioned people who wish to become involved."

### MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

**National League**

**BATTING** — T. Gwynn, San Diego, .386; Bagwell, Houston, .365; Morris, Cincinnati, .353; Alou, Montreal, .332; Piazza, Los Angeles, .328; Jeffries, St. Louis, .327; Justice, Atlanta, .322.

**RUNS** — Bagwell, Hou., 86; Grissom, Mon., 85; Bonds, San Francisco, 82; Biggio, Hou., 80; Lankford, S.L., 77; Galaraga, Colo., 77; Bichette, Col., 73.

**RBIs** — Bagwell, Hou., 107; Bichette, Col., 94; McGwire, St. Louis, 91; Piazza, L.A., 91; Galaraga, Col., 85; McGriff, Atl., 82; Walker, Mon., 78.

**HITS** — T. Gwynn, SD, 148; Morris, Cin., 144; Bichette, Col., 140; Bagwell, Hou., 138; Galaraga, Col., 133; Conine, Florida, 131; Grissom, Mon., 127.

**HOME RUNS** — McGwire, St. Louis, 41; Bagwell, Hou., 37; Bonds, SF, 32; Galaraga, Col., 31; McGriff, Atl., 28; Bichette, Col., 27; Mitchell, Cin., 27.

**STOLEN BASES** — D. Sanders, Cin., 36; Grissom, Mon., 35; Biggio, Hou., 32; Carr, Fla., 31; D. Davis, SF, 27; DeShields, L.A., 26; Mouton, Hou., 24; Larkin, Cin., 24.

**PITCHING (12 Decisions)** — Freeman, Col., 10-2, .533, 2.50; Wiercinski, Atl., 9-3, .750, 3.57; Sabersberger, New York, 12-4, .750, 2.82; Kuhl, Mon., 14-5, .737, 3.18; D. Jackson, Philadelphia, 13-5, 7.22, 3.42; G. Maddux, Atl., 14-8, 7.00, 1.70; Rijo, Cin., 9-4, .622, 3.17.

**STRIKEOUTS** — Bonds, SD, 175; Rijo, Cin., 147; G. Maddux, Atl., 145; Glavine, Atl., 132; Sabersberger, New York, 131; P. Martinez, Mon., 125; Fierro, Mon., 118.

**SAVES** — D. Jones, Phil., 27; Franco, N.Y., 27; Back, SF, 25; Wetteland, Mon., 21; Myers, Chicago, 21; M. Michaels, Atl., 20; Hudel, Hou., 18; Hoffman, SD, 16.

**American League**

**BATTING** — Thomas, Chicago, .366; Belle, Cleveland, .355; O'Neill, New York, .353; Lofton, Cle., .355; Boggs, N.Y., .345; Molitor, Toronto, .343; W. Clark, Texas, .338.

**RUNS** — Thomas, Chi., 101; Lofton, Cle., 97; Belle, Cle., 85; Canseco, Tex., 85; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 82; Phillips, Detroit, 81; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 78; Molitor, Tor., 78.

**RBIs** — Belle, Cle., 98; Puckett, Min., 97; Carter, Tor., 97; Thomas, Chi., 95; Franco, Chi., 88; Sierra, Oakland, 85; Canseco, Tex., 85.

**HITS** — Lofton, Cle., 149; Belle, Cle., 142; Molitor, Tor., 141; Thomas, Chi., 134; Knoblauch, Min., 129; Baergs, Cle., 128; Griffey Jr., Sea., 127; Palmeiro, Baltimore, 127.

**HOME RUNS** — Thomas, Chi., 38; Griffey Jr., Sea., 36; Belle, Cle., 35; Canseco, Tex., 29; M. Vaughn, Boston, 25; Fielder, Del., 25; Carter, Tor., 25.

**STOLEN BASES** — Lofton, Cle., 36; Coleman, Kansas City, 49; Nixon, Bos., 37; Knoblauch, Min., 31; McRae, KC, 28; Alou, Atl., 27; Byrdson, Bal., 27.

**PITCHING (12 Decisions)** — Key, N.Y., 16-3, .842, 3.27; Bero, Chi., 10-2, .533, 3.58; Canseco, Tex., 15-4, .788, 2.74; McGwire, L.A., 11-3, .786, 3.82; M. P. Perez, N.Y., 9-3, .750, 3.68; Mussina, Bal., 14-5, .737, 3.24; Alvarez, Chi., 12-6, .687, 3.30; Wegman, Milwaukee, 8-4, .667, 4.35; Sanderson, Chi., 8-4, .667, 4.35.

**STRIKEOUTS** — R. Johnson, Sea., 183; Clemens, Bos., 154; Finley, California, 138; Hengert, Tor., 134; Appier, KC, 133; Cone, KC, 120; Rogers, Tex., 117.

**SAVES** — L. Smith, Bal., 32; Montgomery, KC, 24; Aguilera, Min., 21; Eckersley, Oak., 17; Feller, Mil., 16; Russell, Cle., 16; Ayala, Sea., 15; Howe, N.Y., 15.



KEEP ON TRUCKIN' — Cal Ripken acknowledges tribute from Twins' fans in first inning of 2,000th consecutive game. (AP)

# Ambrose takes 7-44 in Northants win

LONDON (Reuters) — Curtly Ambrose produced his best bowling figures for Northamptonshire with seven for 44 to snuff out a brave victory attempt by Hampshire in their county championship match on Monday.

Hampshire captain Mark Nicholas hit 107, his first century for three years, to lead a spirited batting performance after they resumed on 12 for two and needing another 282 to win.

But the West Indian fast bowler was in devastating form and made that prospect unlikely in his opening spell when he sent back Hampshire's major batsmen Paul Terry and Robin Smith.

But from a perilous 44 for four, Nicholas led a recovery in stands of 96 for the third wicket with Kevin James and 66 for the sixth with Adrian Aymes.

Each time, though, Ambrose came back to halt Hampshire's victory charge, having James caught in the gully by Tony Penberthy for 24 and Aymes caught at slip by Allan Lamb for 31.

A career-best performance by left-arm spinner Richard Stamp earned

Yorkshire their second win of the season with 14 balls to spare against Durham.

Stamp took six for 37 as Durham, set 279 from a possible 61 overs, were dismissed for 162 for their fifth successive defeat.

Glamorgan hung on to avoid defeat against Somerset at Swansea in a match they had looked set to win.

After dismissing Somerset for 302, Glamorgan needed 142 from 22 overs for victory but collapsed to finish on 85 for seven at the close.

Adrian Dale went in the first over and a superb throw by Ian Fletcher ran out Hugh Morris three overs later. The middle order then failed as Glamorgan lurched to 61 for seven and Somerset set 30 deliveries to win before the match was called off.

County Championship Table

	P	W	L	D	pts	pp
Warwickshire	11	5	4	2	28	37
Surrey	12	7	4	1	35	34
Leicestershire	10	6	3	1	30	35
Essex	11	5	5	3	29	40
Somerset	11	5	5	3	29	40
Nottinghamshire	11	5	5	3	29	40
Gloucestershire	11	5	5	3	29	40
Yorkshire	11	5	5	3	29	40
Northamptonshire	11	5	5	3	29	40
Derbyshire	11	5	5	3	29	40
Glamorgan	11	5	5	3	29	40

## White out of Test, Wessels to play

LEEDS (AP) — England all-rounder Craig White pulled out yesterday of the second Test against South Africa with a double stress fracture of his left leg.

The 24-year-old could also miss the Ashes tour of Australia at the end of the year after being told he should not play any cricket again this season.

White said he felt pain every time he bowled this year and needed painkillers before each stint with the ball.

England's physiotherapist Dave Roberts said White would have to rest for at least six weeks.

Chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth said White still had a chance of making the tour to Australia who he represented at youth level after his family moved from Yorkshire to Victoria when he was a child.

South African captain Kepler Wessels will play in the Test despite fears his right arm is broken.

Wessels was hit just below the elbow by a ball from Leicestershire's Alan Mullally on Monday.

"The x-rays suggest there might be a hairline crack, but I am in no doubt for the Test," he said.

## Youth rackets qualify for world c'ships

ISRAELI youth tennis team (to age 16) won a place in the world championships after beating Sweden 2-1 in Le Touquet, France on Monday to even their mark at 2-2.

Amir Hadad beat Mathieu Halstrom 6-3, 6-0; Kobi Ziv lost to Bern

Requist 7-6, 6-2; and the doubles team of Hadad and Harel Levi beat Requist and Halstrom 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Earlier, Israel beat Portugal 2-2, lost to Spain 3-0 and to Holland 2-1.

They will join 15 other teams in the October championships in Arizona.

# Hapoel Beit She'an quits National League

ORI LEWIS

NEWLY-promoted soccer club Hapoel Beit-She'an has said it will forfeit its place in the National League because it cannot afford the new "headly lifestyle," Israel Radio reported last night.

Beit-She'an chairman Avi Pilo said he would inform IFA budget controller Yair Rabinowitz that the club would not be able to present its accounts for approval — something all clubs must do before they begin the season.

Pilo told Israel Radio that he was not able to find players of adequate stature to compete on level terms in the National League. The NIS 2 million is not even enough to prepare a decent stadium or other facilities.

Pilo said he will need at least NIS 4m to prepare the club for the upcoming season, which starts in less than a month.

Pilo also explained that in a poor development town like Beit She'an, there were few sponsors who could support a National League club.

Hapoel heads want Revivo back in Tel Aviv

Meanwhile, IFA Haim Revivo controversy refuses to go away, even after the ruling by IFA tribunal judge Shaul Aloni that the former Hapoel Tel Aviv star should be allowed to move to Maccabi Haifa despite the Hapoel sports organization's refusal to sanction the deal.

Hapoel managing director Ya'akov Avimor said yesterday that he would ask IFA tribunal president, Dov Levin, a Supreme Court Justice, to look into Aloni's decision.

Avimor claimed yesterday that Aloni could not simply disregard the IFA standing orders which require two signatures on the player's transfer form.

While Levin decides whether he wishes to re-hear the case, Revivo remains a Maccabi Haifa player.

## West to Pistons

AUBURN HILLS (AP) — The Detroit Pistons obtained center Mark West from the Phoenix Suns on Monday for two second-round draft picks — one in 1996 and one in 1999.

Detroit already has acquired Bill Curley and Eric Leckner in the offseason to go along with Greg "Cadillac" Anderson, who played center last season after Bill Laimbeer retired and Olden Polynice was traded.

The trade of West, who will make \$2 million this season, also clears the way for Phoenix to try to sign free agent Danny Manning.

West, who will be 34 in November, was the only Suns player to play in all 82 games last season, starting 50. He averaged 4.7 points, 3.7 rebounds and 1.3 blocked shots.

West has played in 501 straight games over seven seasons, trailing only AC Green among active players.

Last month, the Pistons obtained Curley, the San Antonio Spurs' first-round draft pick out of Boston College, for Sean Elliott. Curley is slated to play power forward.

## Switzer makes pro coaching debut

IRVING (AP) — Barry Switzer's first big decision came at 13:40 of the second quarter. It was fourth-and-one on the Minnesota 33-yard line.

Switzer opted to go for the first down rather than try a field goal, sending 250-lb tailback Lincoln Coleman up the middle for the first down.

"I enjoyed it out there," said a sweating Switzer after the Dallas Cowboys' 17-9 preseason victory over the Minnesota Vikings. "It was hot and humid. But it was fun and exciting. I wasn't nervous or concerned."

Then he quickly added, "I suppose that may change when the regular season comes."

Switzer got high marks in his coaching debut with the Cowboys. Switzer found out just how easy his job can be Monday night. He simply turned things over to quarterback Troy Aikman, just like his predecessor Jimmy Johnson did.

Switzer was hired by owner Jerry Jones on March 30 to replace Johnson whose Dallas teams won back-to-back Super Bowls. Switzer won three national titles in 16 years at Oklahoma and hadn't coached for five years when he got the call.

Aikman took the Cowboys 65 yards in 11 plays on their first possession, hitting all six of his passes for 52 yards and the way. The payoff came on a 2-yard scoring pass to tight end Daryl Johnston. It was the only possession Aikman played in the game.

Warren Moon, who played 10 years for the Houston Oilers, made his Minnesota debut, hitting 4-of-7 passes for 45 yards as he played only the first period.

## England rugby coach sacked

LONDON (AP) — Dick Best was sacked yesterday as coach of the England rugby team, nine months before the start of the World Cup in South Africa.

Jack Rowell, manager since March, will take over as coach for the two home internationals against Romania and Canada this autumn, the 1995 Five Nations Championship and the World Cup.

Best, 39, was appointed at the start of the 1992 Five Nations Championship, in which England completed the Grand Slam by winning every game of the series against Wales, Ireland, Scotland and France.

His overall record is an impressive 13 wins from 17 internationals, including a home and away double against South Africa and last November's Twickenham triumph against the All Blacks.

Best was also forwards' coach of the British Lions on their tour to New Zealand last year.

Rowell managed the tour of South Africa in May and June on which England won one of the two Tests.

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### GENERAL

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## Maiya: Shenhar report may stop Shas joining gov't

SHAS MK Moshe Maiya said yesterday that if the Education Ministry begins teaching Conservative and Reform views of Judaism in state schools, his party would stop supporting the government.

Maiya's comments came in reaction to the recommendations of the Shenhar Committee, headed by Haifa University Rector Aliza Shenhar, which was set up to investigate the declining interest in Jewish studies in secular schools.

Among the committee's recommendations, which were presented Monday, was that Orthodox observances and viewpoints not be the only ones presented, but that the outlook of the other streams be taught as well.

Maiya said the Shenhar Committee report places another obstacle in the way of Shas's joining the coalition. "I can only speak for myself because the faction has not met yet," Maiya said, "but this is definitely a hurdle."

Maiya said that in the 1992 coalition agreement that Shas signed with the government — and which is serving as the basis

HERB KEINON

for their current coalition negotiations — it was agreed that he would be involved in drawing up any new curricula to teach Judaism in the schools. Implementation of this committee's recommendations would be a violation of that agreement, he said.

Maiya served as deputy education minister under Shulamit Aloni until Shas pulled out of the government last year. He is slated to serve as religious affairs minister if Shas rejoins the government.

"Reform is not Judaism," he said. "It has taken things from Judaism, but is not Judaism. Just as Christianity and Islam took things from Judaism, but are not Judaism. If they try to present this as Judaism, the nation will spit it out."

Zevulun Orlev, who served as Education Ministry director-general in the previous government, when the National Religious Party's Zevulun Hammer was minister, said that while the committee uncovered massive educational failures, its criticism of Orthodoxy is proof that the ministry is not

trying to deal with the problem of religious education, but is rather continuing its battle with religious Zionism. The Shenhar Committee was set up by Hammer in 1991.

"The struggle to teach Judaism in the state schools is critical for the country, but not the study of folklore or archeology," Orlev said. "We are talking about values, a Jewish way of life and Jewish culture, subjects that the current government denigrates."

On the other hand, the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism yesterday welcomed the report and its endorsement by Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

"Our experience is that a liberal and progressive approach to Jewish studies is accepted positively by the pupils and wide sectors of the population," a spokesman for the movement said. "We hope the fate of the committee's findings — that Jewish studies must be removed from the hands of the Orthodox establishment — will be applied and not buried in the drawers."

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

## Filipina maid stabbed to death

RAINE MARCUS

DAN police are investigating the murder of a Filipina maid who was found dead yesterday afternoon in the Ramat Gat home of her 94-year-old employer.

Rosita Salalila, 44, had been stabbed and beaten sometime in the morning, said police, but her body was only discovered at around 3 p.m. Her employer, Benjamin Calev, who is deaf and infirm, was at home at the time of the murder and was not aware of anything unusual had happened.

Police believe Salalila opened the door for her murderer, and said she may have been killed as part of a feud within the Filipino community.

Salalila came here several years ago and had worked as a live-in maid for Calev for the past year. "She was devoted, and did everything for the old man," said a neighbor. "She would clean, go to the bank for him, and do errands — everything. It's not possible she was involved in anything criminal."

Dan police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Raz said she was apparently not killed as part of a robbery, since jewelry she was wearing and other valuables in the house had not been stolen.

He also ruled out a nationalistic motive.

"The victim, who was authorized to be here, worked very hard as a maid and helper for the owner of the house," said Raz at the murder scene. "She had probably been killed earlier in the day."

Her clothing body was discovered by Calev's daughter Aviva, who had come to visit her father. She thought it strange that she did not see Salalila immediately and searched for her, discovering the badly beaten body on the floor of her bedroom.

No one in the area heard or saw anything suspicious, said Raz. "Mr. Calev is nearly deaf and finds it difficult to function," he added. Calev has lived alone in the house since his wife died five years ago.

Salalila, a widow, is survived by nine children. Two daughters also work here as maids, and the other seven live in the Philippines.



Attendants remove the body of maid Rosita Salalila, 44, who was stabbed to death yesterday by an unknown assailant at the home of her employer in Ramat Gan. (Aron Ron/Israel Staff)

## Yair: 86% of army conscripts are high school graduates

ALON PINKAS

AN unprecedented 86% of this month's IDF inductees are high school graduates, and 33% will join combat units, OC Manpower Branch Maj.-Gen. Yoram Yair, said yesterday.

Speaking to military correspondents, Yair said that of those volunteering for combat units, the percentage who want to join the Duvdevan and Shimshon undercover units remains high.

"We will continue to maintain those two units, despite the recent agreements with the Palestinians," said Yair.

He said the new political realities will result in a lessening of the burden on reservists, but that a decision on shortening the current three years of compulsory service has not yet been made.

"The Shafir Commission, which we appointed to study the issue of reducing the compulsory service, did a very serious job. Its conclusions and recommendations were presented to the General Staff which is now carefully reviewing them. Ultimately, the political echelon will make a decision, I assume within a year," he said.

The Shafir Commission recommended that compulsory service for men be shortened by four months. Yair described his branch's new conscription process, which involves a closer link between the army and the conscript while they are still in high school.

The young people are summoned to the IDF conscription center, asked to fill out detailed forms and are assigned to their units before actually enlisting.

The system was tested in three corps, beginning last November. It is now being implemented in all combat units. Currently, 85% of the soldiers posted to combat units had made an early request for those units, Yair said.

Yair also addressed the issue of suicides in the army, admitting that in the first half of 1994 the number of suicides — which he would not give — was high. Unfortunately, he said, the number has been this high before.

"There are no common denominators linking the suicide cases, and in most cases there is no causal relationship between their military service and the suicide act," he said.

## Clalit workers hold back on payment demand

JUDY SIEGEL

THE union of Kupat Holim Clalit workers agreed last night to delay payment of clothing and leisure allowances for most workers, in order to enable the health fund to receive NIS 520 million in state aid.

Union chief Haim Baranes, who represents 25,000 health fund staffs (excluding nurses and doctors), reluctantly agreed to the two-month delay in payment requested by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh. Employees who earn less than NIS 3,000 a month, and those who are the sole supporters of their families and earn up to NIS 4,000 a month will get half of their clothing allowance and all of their leisure allowance in a few days. The rest will have to wait.

"We realized that we could not allow the health fund to collapse; it is, after all, our employer," Baranes said.

## Donald Duck flees museum

LIAT COLLINS

DONALD Duck has gone missing. Last seen at the animal corner of the Natural History Museum in Jerusalem's German Colony, the duck is presumed still to be somewhere in the area.

The large duck has black feathers with a greenish tinge, a red bill with spots, and beady eyes. He likes cabbage and bread. Not only the children at the museum's summer camp miss Donald Duck, Wazza, the goose who has been his constant companion, has gone into mourning.

Incidentally, Donald is only a nickname. If you find a stray duck in your yard, try calling out "Boaz Barvaz." If he comes to you, call Motro at the museum: 02-631116.

## Potato salesman suspected of tax fraud

RAINE MARCUS

TWO banqueting hall owners suspected of helping a supplier evade hundreds of thousands of shekels in tax payments were released on NIS 150,000 bail each by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Or Yehuda residents Zvi Ovadia, 56, and Shaul Tarshi, 43, who own a banqueting hall in the area, were questioned following the arrest of potato salesman Shimon Biton, who authorities allege failed to declare hundreds of thousands of shekels in tax payments.

During a search of Biton's office and home, investigators found documents relating to the sales of potatoes to Ovadia and Tarshi. They also seized ledgers and account books allegedly indicating irregularities.

Biton, said tax investigator Yoel Spiro, sold the pair huge quantities of potatoes for their hall between 1990 and 1994, but no such sales were recorded. In Biton's office investigators found receipts which the potato salesman allegedly forged and which did not reflect genuine sales.

Similar receipts were found in Tarshi's and Ovadia's office, but the amounts indicated did not match.

Investigators suspect the two helped Biton evade hundreds of thousands of shekels in tax payments over a four-year period.

## Addict, suspected of murder, turns himself in

RAINE MARCUS

A 30-year-old drug addict, who is suspected of killing 42-year-old Ronnie Cohen in an abandoned building in Tel Aviv's Nevech Tzedek neighborhood Monday night, turned himself into police yesterday.

Cohen, also a drug addict and known to police, had been axed and beaten to death. The suspect told police he had killed Cohen in self defense.

Cohen's body was discovered after neighbors reported hearing

strange noises coming from the building. An ax was found next to the body.

Shortly after midnight, police arrested the victim's girlfriend, 27-year-old Orly Godfar, who told detectives she had seen the killing. She was remanded for seven days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday, to give police time to investigate whether she had taken part in the killing.

The two men had fought over the house, said police. The suspect had lived there with an elderly man, but when the old man died, he refused to leave the premises and claimed he had squatters' rights. He had fought with Cohen over the house, said police, and a brawl erupted. The suspect told police that Cohen had attacked him with an ax, and he had retaliated by beating him with an iron bar.

## Pollard's lawyers plan new appeal

BATSHEVA TSUR

JONATHAN Pollard's lawyers are planning to appeal his case again in light of material that emerged from the case of former CIA employee and master spy Aldrich Ames, a source close to the Pollard family told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The case will be submitted in soon and will also relate to allegations by former defense secretary Les Aspin that Pollard had sent 14 letters containing classified information from prison, the source said.

Pollard, a former civilian analyst for US Naval Intelligence, was convicted of spying for Israel nine years ago and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Opponents of an early release for Pollard have contended that the information he gave Israel could have reached the KGB through Russian spies in Israel. But Ames, the highest ranking official to betray his country, was found guilty of selling information directly to the former Soviet Union, thus obviating the need for a Pollard link to Moscow. Ames is also serving a life sentence.

Speaking in a telephone interview yesterday, Jonathan's sister, Carol, pointed out that a presidential adviser had said the case was no longer before the president. "Unless Mr. Pollard submits a renewed petition for clemency," Special Counsel Lloyd Cutler made the remark in response to a letter from a Connecticut Jewish leader, Eugene Elander.

Carol Pollard said that Esther Zeitz-Pollard, who was in Israel late last month to solicit support for her husband Jonathan, does not represent Citizens for Justice, the organization which Carol heads.

"Ms. Zeitz is not authorized to collect funds and is not associated in any way with Citizens for Justice in the US or Canada. She is operating strictly on her own," she said.

Zeitz-Pollard could not be reached for comment.

## Israel asks Vatican to clarify reports of award to Waldheim

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

THE Foreign Ministry said yesterday it would ask the Vatican to clarify reports that it had awarded a papal knighthood to former Austrian president Kurt Waldheim, who is suspected of committing war crimes while serving in the German army during World War II.

The ministry was informed of the matter by Rabbi David Rosen

of the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL said Pope John Paul II approved the knighthood earlier this year and it was conferred at a ceremony last month at the Vatican's embassy in Vienna.

The award was given in recognition of Waldheim's "efforts for peace" and humanitarian activities

during his term as UN secretary-general from 1972-82.

Ambassador to the Holy See Shmuel Hadas, who is attending the conference here of ambassadors to Europe, will ask for the clarification from the Vatican when he returns to Rome.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu said Israel was "shocked" by the award. "If it happened, then it is a bad, tasteless joke," he said. "Whoever honors Waldheim for safeguarding human rights ignores his wartime record, which his UN term does not compensate for."

In 1986, during Waldheim's campaign for the Austrian presidency, it was revealed he had lied about his activities during the war. He had said he was wounded and discharged in 1941, but documents showed he was later assigned to a Nazi intelligence unit involved in war crimes in the Balkans.

## 'Davar' workers, Charney discuss buying paper from Histadrut

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

DAVAR journalists are considering buying the newspaper from its owner, the Histadrut, together with New York-based attorney Leon Charney.

Charney and the journalists' representatives yesterday met for four hours in Davar's editorial offices on Tel Aviv's Shephard Street to discuss the possible purchase.

The discussions focused on Charney's serving as a strategic partner who would invest in the newspaper and advise the workers, while the journalists run and manage it.

Charney confirmed yesterday that he agreed to be a strategic partner "on condition that a full audit is conducted into the paper's financial situation. Until now, nobody has seen the figures. I am an investor who is interested in getting a return on my investment. It's business. And my partnership would help them with their negotiations with the Histadrut."

Charney said that Davar could be "a great newspaper." It has excellent writers. "It needs to be modernized and updated, a superb editor, marketing and circulation managers, and then it will have a chance. I want it to be independent, neither left nor right-wing. I would guess that [Histadrut Secretary-General Haim] Ramon would be willing to pay us for taking the paper away from him."

Charney also expressed fear that Ramon would try to "suffocate Davar" by canceling as many of its subscriptions as possible. He told me that for one shekel he would give the paper away, that's how much he wants to get rid of it."

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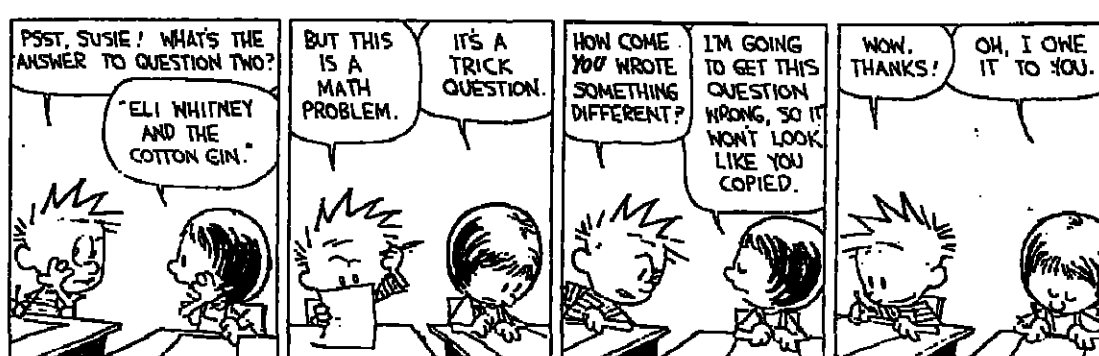
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